FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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LD241506 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iraqi warplanes carried out separate raids against the petrochemical complex at Bandar-e Khomeyni 22 and 23 August, according to communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA denied Iranian claims that a plane was shot down by air defense units near Bandar-e Khomeyni 22 August. On 23 August, one communique noted, Iraqi pilots also carried out "destructive" air strikes against a power station east of Tabriz and a cement factory at Do Rud. According to IRNA, a total of 30 civilians were killed and more than 140 wounded. In retaliation, Iranian aircraft "heavily pounded" military-industrial targets in Dahuk, Darbandikhan, and Al-'Amarah 22 August, and artillery shelled other such targets in Al-Basrah Province the next day, the agency reported. A report by INA accused Iran of attacking residential areas in all those sectors and said that 16 civilians were killed and an unspecified number wounded in addition to property damage.

Regarding action on the western fronts, Iraq denied that a helicopter was shot down near Sumar 21 August, INA reported. According to Tehran radio, Iranian forces inflicted 400 casualties on the enemy during fighting in the "Nasr-7" area the next day and a another enemy helicopter was downed.

The Tehran paper *Abrar* declared that the Islamic Republic "has the capacity" to "seriously endanger the economic life of the Saudi dynasty and the United States" by attacking Saudi and U.S. interests in the Gulf area, including Aramco facilities in Dhahran and military bases used by U.S. personnel and equipment, AFP reported 21 August. Meanwhile, in remarks reported by IRNA the next day, the head of the War Information Headquarters denied that Iran mined "international waters and shores" of the Gulf. The spokesman also denied media reports that Iran has revised its stand on the presence of U.S. warships in the Gulf and reiterated that the U.S. naval presence heightens tension by causing the impression that the Gulf is insecure. In a related development, a statement by a UAE Coast Guard official reaffirmed that the waters of Al-Fujayrah and Khawr Fakkan remain free of mines and that navagation is "proceeding normally."

Iran

The "regrettable" events in Mecca not only represent the "desecration of a holy place" but also constitute "treason" against Islam, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni declared in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio 23 August. Khomeyni said that the "premeditated" act by the "gang of heretics" that oversees Mecca has caused him to become "impatient." While the ayatollah stressed that "the issue must be kept alive" during the traditional month of mourning, he cautioned against attacking representatives of Saudi Arabia or Kuwait who may be in the country. "These people are under our protection," Khomeyni said, adding that there may be some young people who are attempting "to tarnish" the state's reputation. The ayatollah, who was speaking on the eve of Government Week, praised government employees for their "spiritual strength" and admonished "those who are outside and criticizing" government action because they are not thoroughly familiar with the difficulties posed by the war and the enmity Iran suffers from "all the governments of the world." Those governments are "bent on destroying" Islam as well as the Islamic Republic, Khomeyni asserted.

During his address to the Friday prayer service in Tehran carried by the radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated Iran's determination and capacity to defeat Iraq. On the subject of U.S. involvement in the region, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that Iran has "explicitly" stated that it "does not wish to get into a conflict"; however, he warned, if the United States continues its presence, "incidents will occur." Hashemi-Rafsanjani alleged that the U.S. "psychological warfare" campaign launched against Iran has "boomeranged." Part of that campaign is a "propaganda" attack, he charged. In this regard, Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted that Western media distorted his remarks on the subject of Iran's willingness to intercede on behalf of the foreign hostages in Lebanon. The reports that Iran made a new proposal for a hostage swap are "empty and devoid of content," he said.

Iran believes the "psychological war will reach a juncture for a serious conflict," Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared. Therefore, the "supreme councils of war support" plan to meet in the capital to prepare. In his opening address to the meeting 24 August, President 'Ali Akbar Khamene'i referred to the "critical situation" in the Gulf and stressed that Iran "is exerting its utmost efforts to prevent any clash in this region," IRNA reported.

Arab League

In Tunis the Arab League Council began the second day of deliberations in an emergency session called by Tunisia to discuss the Gulf situation and its implications for the region's security and stability, KUNA reported 24 August. In a speech opening the 23 August session reported by SPA, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed that the Arab world does not seek "to endorse" hostility with Iran and pointed out that it is "painful to all" that Iran has not responded to calls for peace. He said that Iran's actions threaten the security and stability of its Gulf neighbors and asserted that it is now the duty of the Arab leaders to make a move which is "compatible with the nature of the dangers" of the war.

Saudi Arabia

Facilities for U.S. — Commenting on recent U.S. reports on the provision of Saudi facilities for U.S. aircraft, a "responsible source" cited by SPA stated that Saudi Arabia has denied such reports "more than once."

Statement on Iran — In a statement to Kuwait's *Al-Siyasah* cited by SPA, the Saudi interior minister denied his government gave the Iranians permission to stage a march in Mecca, stressing that when the Saudi security system allows Iranian pilgrims to demonstrate, it will also grant this right to Iraqi pilgrims, since the Iraqis are citizens of a country "that has accepted peace," whereas Iran "declares war." The minister asserted that in 1980

the Saudi Government began to feel Iran wanted to "exploit" the pilgrimage and that the security forces were ordered to deal with the situation "within the bounds of courtesy," but that the Iranians took advantage of this flexibility.

Libya-Chad

A MIG-23 and a combat helicopter belonging to Libya were shot down 21 August over Aozour, a FANT communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio claimed. According to other FANT communiques broadcast by the radio, Libya continued to bomb Chadian towns, striking Aozou and Wour on 23 August; Aozou and Bardai 22 August; and Ounianga, Gouro, Aozour, Aozou, and the Zouar area 21 August. In addition, Ndjamena radio broadcast a FANT communique announcing the "final results" of the 19 August attack on Aozou by four Libyan columns. These included 405 Libyans killed, 161 taken prisoner, and quantities of equipment seized or destroyed.

Ndjamena radio announced 21 August that a group of Libyan officers captured earlier in the month revealed that Soviet advisers are in charge of training Libyan soldiers at Libya's Tanoa base 100 km from Aozou. The base is used to stockpile MIG-23 fighters, transport planes, surface-to-surface missiles, antiaircraft missiles, and other materiel.

Morocco

A Moroccan F-5 plane was shot down and 195 Moroccan soldiers killed and a "similar number" wounded in a 21 August Polisario attack on the Ausert region, according to a Saharan information ministry communique cited by Algiers radio. The communique said Saharan forces also attacked Moroccan bases and defense positions on a 25-km stretch of the sixth Moroccan wall the same day, capturing 35 Moroccans and seizing and destroying "large quantities" of weapons and military equipment.

Sudan

The DUP and Al-Ummah, the two ruling parties, agreed to end their coalition, SUNA announced 22 August. DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Al-Ummah leader, agreed to maintain cooperation between the two parties, and the government apparatus is to continue whether a new government is formed or the coalition is restored. SUNA also announced that Al-Mahdi and Al-Mirghani agreed to withdraw the emergency law from the constituent assembly and amend it, and to place the constituent assembly "in open session." The prime minister said consultations on the formation of a national government are in progress and asserted that this will take place before 7 September, SUNA noted.

Lebanon

Hostage Situation — In a statement sent to a Western press agency in Beirut, Islamic Jihad stated that one of the French hostages the organization holds is "seriously ill," AFP reported 21 August. The statement also threatened action against some hostages unless Kuwait stops "mistreating" fundamentalist detainees. The statement was accompanied by a videotape of French abductees Jean-Paul Kauffmann and Marcel Carton. The Lebanese magazine *Al-Shira'* speculated that Anglican envoy Terry Waite may be released soon in exchange for a ransom of 5 million dollars, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported 22 August. According to DPA, there is "justified hope" that German hostages Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt may also be released "soon." A "reliable source" in Tehran reported 23 August that Iran is "strongly interested" in resolving the hostage cases, the agency added.

Military Action — An Israeli helicopter strafed Wadi al-Saluqi and Bayt Yahun 24 August, Voice of Lebanon reported. The so-called Revolutionary Organization for Liberation and Unification claimed responsibility for a 21 August explosion at the headquarters of the Ba'th Party and the Al-Asad Battalion in Ra's al-Nab', the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported, adding that several people were killed.

Beirut Radio on Air — After 3 days of test transmissions, Beirut radio announced 24 August that it was resuming its normal programming.

PLO Affairs

Executive Committee Meeting — In a communique on its 18-20 August meeting in Tunis broadcast by the Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio, the PLO Executive Committee called on Arab governments to intervene to end the situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and appealed in particular to Syria to lift the siege on the camps. The committee also noted the importance of holding an Arab summit conference to achieve Arab solidarity, condemned the "painful" events of the recent pilgrimage, and affirmed it would continue efforts to convene an international conference to bring about peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat Advisers — PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat dismissed Zayd Wahdi, his most senior representative in Lebanon, following the death of Rassam al-Ghul, commander of Fatah's Force 17, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Meanwhile, the London-based *Al-Majallah* reported that Bassam Abu Sharif, former PFLP Political Bureau member and PFLP spokesman, has been appointed 'Arafat's personal adviser. Sharif was expelled from the PFLP for allegedly meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during the recent OAU summit.

Syrian Diplomacy

Talks With Jordan — President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm met Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i 22 August in Damascus for talks on the current situation in the Arab world, bilateral relations, and other issues of mutual interest, Amman television reported.

Soviet Trade Talks — In remarks cited by Damascus radio, a Soviet foreign trade official concluding a 17-21 August visit to Damascus said his talks with Syrian economic officials were "fruitful and successful" and expressed the hope that efforts to surmount difficulties hindering joint cooperation and the further enhancement of relations would continue.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir briefed the Cabinet on his visit to Romania 23 August, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the Cabinet did not discuss the Lavi project. According to Jerusalem television, Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres are trying to agree on a compromise proposal that will also be acceptable to the defense and finance ministers.

Reportage on Preparations for Arab League Session

Klibi Meets PNC Speaker, PRC Envoy

LD211509 Kuwait KUNA in English 1357 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, Aug 21 (KUNA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi met here Friday with Speaker of the Palestine National Council 'Abd al-Hamid al-Salih, who is currently on a visit here.

A number of current issues topped by the Palestinian question, the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon were discussed during the meeting.

Al-Salih said in a statement after the meeting that Klibi was greatly concerned over the situation of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Klibi met with China's charge d'affaires in Tunisia within the framework of undergoing preparations of Arab foreign ministers meeting which is scheduled here next Sunday.

The Chinese diplomat told Klibi of China's stance on the ongoing Iraq-Iran war and its development in the region. China is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

Briefs French, British, U.S. Envoys

LD201412 Kuwait KUNA in English 1237 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, Aug 20 (KUNA) — Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Chedli Klibi had talks today with the ambassadors of France, the U.S. and Britain in Tunis Thursday dealing with the Gulf crisis and current international efforts to safeguard freedom of navigation there.

A source at the League General Secretariat said Klibi briefed the three envoys on Arab efforts to defuse tension in the Arabian Gulf region and put an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

Klibi, the source added, also told of consultation to hold an extraordinary meeting of Arab foreign ministers to try and adopt a united Arab stance on the Gulf war. The meeting, originally scheduled for last Saturday, was put off to next Sunday.

The three envoys, who met Klibi separately, kept the Arab official informed of current moves within the Security Council to draft a second resolution on the Iran-Iraq war, this time calling for an international arms embargo on the party that refuses to observe the initial resolution.

Last July 20 the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 598 calling on the two Gulf war belligerents to cease hostilities and start peace talks to resolve their seven-year old conflict.

Iraq has accepted Resolution 598, but Iran has so far neither accepted nor rejected the call, and analysts believe Tehran is trying to buy time against American efforts for a second resolution calling for a moratorium on weapons (?exports) to the Gulf war combatants.

Iraq Message on Iranian Shelling

JN211130 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 21 Aug (INA) — Iraq has informed the Arab League of the Iranian forces' continued shelling of residential areas in Iraq.

Iraq's permanent Arab League representative Taha Yasin 'Ali presented a message to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi today. The message said that the Iranian forces had shelled residential areas in the cities of Basra and Al-'Uzayr in southern Iraq, as well as the villages of Qal'at Dizah, Biyarah, and Qazaniyah in northern Iraq, four times between 11 and 18 August with long-range artillery. A number of Iraqi civilians were wounded and property sustained material damage as a result of this shelling.

The INA correspondent in Tunis has learned that this message will be placed on the agenda of the 7-member Arab committee entrusted with following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war. The committee will meet following the conclusion of the Arab League Council's extraordinary session, which is scheduled to begin work here on Sunday.

Saudi Foreign Minister Statement

LD221557 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tomorrow Tunis will host an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, who will chair the meeting, was the first foreign minister to arrive at Tunis Carthage International Airport. He was welcomed on arrival by Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, Saudi Ambassador to Tunisia Ibrahim S'ad Ibrahim, and the permanent representative of Saudi Arabia to the Arab League.

In an arrival statement, he expressed hope that a united Arab stand would be reached during the meeting in order to confront current events, especially those taking place in the Arab Gulf. With regard to the chances for ratification of a joint Arab defense agreement, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal explained that what is important is for the Arab states to implement their contractual obligations toward the Arab League, its resolutions, and its charter. He said that what is more important than the language and drafting is a united stand which stems from pure intentions and serious work to confront Arab problems.

Commenting on the possibility that the recent Mecca events would be discussed during the meeting, His Royal Highness affirmed that those events were among a series of incidents perpetrated by the Iranians contrary to the good intentions shown by the Arab nation since the eruption of the Iranian revolution. He said that the Iranians insist on sedition and division despite the good intentionsshown by the Arabs. The events in Mecca are only one such incident.He explained that it is natural that we should review all the actions carried out by Iran against the Arab nation in our deliberations.

Concerning the severing of diplomatic relations with Iran, His Royal Highness stated: What interests us is the general Arab attitude. Without doubt Iran's dealings, especially with regard to diplomatic custom, and its actions against the embassies of the Kingdom, Kuwait, and others, confirms that this country does not recognize the rules and principles of diplomatic action. This is one of the things which I believe we in the Arab world should discuss seriously, especially at this extraordinary meeting.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives

LD221509 Kuwait KUNA in English 1414 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, Aug 22 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said on arrival here Saturday that the Arab foreign ministers' meeting to be held here Sunday is of concern to all the Arab world.

He advocated Arab unity to be respected by all and "our hopes are high that we will overcome all obstacles and differences to preserve our peoples' dignity and strength particularly following its current stage of collapse and weakness and the infringement on our holiest of shrines in Mecca."

Shaykh Sabah hoped that the meeting would come out with a united stance for the Arab world which is only lacking such stands to have a say among world (?nations).

Answering a question, Shaykh Sabah said that Kuwait has no work paper to table at the meeting and added that the incidents in holy Mecca, threats in the Gulf region and their repercussions that reached the Arab Maghreb should be understood.

The Kuwaiti chief diplomat was received on arrival by his Tunisian counterpart Hedi Mabrouk and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Holds Meetings With Counterparts

LD231443 Kuwait KUNA in English 1239 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, Aug 23 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah Saturday met separately with foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, Bahrain, Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah and the Libyan permanent representative to the Arab League 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi.

Nothing official has been said on discussion during the meeting, but it is believed it comes within framework of preparations for Arab foreign ministers meeting which will start here tonight.

Iraq's 'Aziz Holds Talks

JN231100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 23 Aug (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here last night with a number of Arab foreign ministers who are currently in Tunis to attend the Arab League Council emergency session scheduled to begin there today.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister met separately with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk, and Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Tariq 'Aziz and the Arab foreign ministers discussed the challenges posed to the Arab nation by the Iranian regime. They also examined ways to adopt practical resolutions that will reflect Arab solidarity and unity in the face of the dangers confronting the Arabs.

Tariq 'Aziz also met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to discuss the same subjects.

Meets YAR, Sudanese Counterparts

JN231344 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 23 Aug (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met separately here today with Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, YAR deputy prime minister and development minister, and Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad, the Sudanese foreign minister.

Tariq 'Aziz reviewed with each of the two ministers the repeated Iranian aggression against the Arab countries, as well as the agenda of the emergency Arab League Council's meeting, which is scheduled to convene here later today.

In a statement to jounalists, Tariq 'Aziz termed the foreign ministers' emergency meeting at the ivitation of Tunis a positive initiative at a time when the Arab nation is being subjected to real dangers. He stressed that the meeting will undoubtedly yield practical resolutions showing Arab solidarity and unity in the face of the challenges confronting us as a result of the aggresive and expansionist policy of the Tehran rulers.

Jordan's Al-Masri Arrives

JN230655 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Amman — Jordan is participating in the Arab League Council emergency session which will be held at the foreign ministerial level and which is scheduled to begin in the Tunisian capital today. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, who arrived in Tunis yesterday, is heading the Jordanian delegation to this meeting.

Upon arrival, Al-Masri reiterated that this session is very important as a result of the serious developments currently taking place in the Gulf region. He indicated that Jordan's stand toward the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Gulf region is clear. He asserted that Jordan will cooperate with fraternal Arab countries in accordance with its policies in this regard. Al-Masri added that firmness and clarity must prevail at these meetings, for recent developments are too serious to ignore or overlook. The possible dangers are far greater than we can imagine and matters must be rectified. [passage omitted]

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives

JN231610 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Tunis today to attend the emergency session of the Arab Foreign Ministers' Council, which is scheduled to begin in Tunis this evening.

Receiving Al-Shar' at Tunis international airport were Taieb Sahbani, Tunisian minister of state for foreign affairs; Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general; the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tunis; Syrian Embassy staff; and senior Arab League officials.

Meets with Arab Officials

JN231856 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at his residence in Tunis this afternoon. During their meeting, they discussed current developments in the region, as well as the topics on the agenda of the emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting.

Afterward, Al-Shar' received Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk. They discussed bilateral relations and the Tunisian request to hold an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council.

The foreign minister also received successively Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak, Bahraini foreign minister; and 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libya's permanent representative in the Arab League. During these meetings, the discussions focused on the current situation in the Arab Gulf, as well as the topics included in the agenda of the Arab League Council.

Algerian Delegation Arrives

LD222343 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Mr Djamel Houhou, Central Committee member and minister of public health, arrived in Tunis this evening at the head of the Algerian delegation to an emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers, scheduled to begin tomorrow. Called by Tunisia, this emergency meeting will examine the latest developments taking place in the Gulf region as a result of the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war. Mr Djamel Houhou expressed hope that this emergency meeting would result in a common Arab position that would contribute to bringing peace to the Gulf region. [passage omitted]

Egypt, Jordan Reject Israeli Conference Proposal

NC230649 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
20 Aug 87 p 2

[Text] Cairo — *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* has learned that Egypt and Jordan have rejected an Israeli offer to return a large part of the West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt. This offer is contingent upon the approval of Egypt and Jordan for the convocation of a regional conference on peace in the Middle East and their abandonment of the idea of an international conference.

The Israeli offer includes that country's withdrawal from territories it now occupies in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Exceptions to this would be some strategic positions and the settlements there, which would remain in Isneli hands.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo have asserted that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan absolutely refused to discuss the details of this offer with a number of U.S. and European envoys who have visited Cairo and Amman during the last few months. During his recent meeting in Tel Aviv with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir repeated this offer, which Egypt had previously rejected.

At the same time, diplomatic reports from Cairo indicate that in current communications between Washington and Cairo, Amman, and Tel Aviv, all sides are seeking to reach agreement over a memorandum of understanding with regard to the convocation of an international conference. This memorandum will define the powers that will be entrusted to the conference and the parties that will participate in it. These contacts are taking place in the wake of an agreement by all sides with regard to certain points of the memorandum which deal with the notion that the conference will not be imposed upon the parties concerned.

'Arab Intelligence' Kills Palestinian Commander

JN221918 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1815 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Criminal elements belonging to Arab intelligence organs have assassinated Palestinian hero struggler Rasim al-Ghul, one of the cadres of the Fatah national liberation movement in the city of Sidon in southern Lebanon.

Reports from southern Lebanon say that armed elements belonging to an Arab intelligence organization had been chasing Palestinian struggler martyr Rasim al-Ghul, the official in charge of Force 17 in southern Lebanon, for some time. They succeeded in assassinatinghim in Sidon. He sustained serious injuries from bullets fired from pistols equipped with silencers. A state of tension currently prevails in Sidon in light of the assassination of Palestinian cadre Rasim al-Ghul.

'Arafat Dismisses Senior Associate in Lebanon

NC230501 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0315 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] It was learned in Sidon last night that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has dismissed his most senior representative in Lebanon, Zayd Wahdi, following the assassination of one of 'Arafat's supporters, Rasim al-Ghul. Al-Ghul was a victim of the strife between pro-'Arafat and pro-Syrian groups.

Ousted PFLP Spokesman Reportedly To Advise 'Arafat

PM211225 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
19-25 August 87 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Appointment of Abu Sharif as Adviser to 'Arafat]

[Text] *Al-Majallah* has learned that Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the Political Bureau of the PFLP and its former spokesman, has been appointed personal adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman. This appointment comes in the wake of his expulsion from the PFLP as a result of his meeting with President Husni Mubarak when he was part of a Palestinian delegation to the recent OAU summit.

The PFLP decision at this level was recently published in its mouthpiece, the *Al-Hadaf* magazine, and came 24 hours after the aforementioned meeting. Abu Sharif says that he was dismissed in absentia and without a summons or a hearing.

PLO'S Al-Surani Views Arab, Soviet Ties

PM211111 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
21 aug 87 p 28-29

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Secretary Jamal al-Surani by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith*: You attended the meeting held between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat, which was the culmination of the contacts made to contain the crisis that emerged after the PNC session. How do you assess these contacts?

Al-Surani: Actually, it is no secret that the contacts between the PLO and Cairo never stopped, not even in the days of Al-Sadat. Egypt is not some country in the Caribbean or the Pacific. It is the heart of the Arab nation and it constitutes one-third of that nation. With due respect to everyone, Egypt is not Djibouti or Mauritania. Anyone who does not understand the significance, importance, and standing of Egypt should not discuss major and fateful issues. Ties with Egypt have never been severed; however, this does not mean that there are no differences with Egypt. We are constantly endeavoring to eliminate these differences and we have made great strides toward achieving this as is reflected in Egypt's support for Palestinian self-determination, for a Palestinian state, for an international conference, and for Palestinian representation at such a conference. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Was the issue of an international conference the focal point in the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting?

Al-Surani: The central issue was not the international conference but the restoration of Arab solidarity so that the Arab nation can make important decisions with regard to, among other things, the question of an international conference. The meeting focused on ways to promote such an Arab situation at a time of superpower naval presence in the Gulf and an explosive situation liable to erupt at any moment. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Before the February crisis, PLO representative Al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim ended his work in Cairo. Egypt had requested that the PLO representative in Cairo should be a member of the Executive Committee. Does that request still stand?

Al-Surani: Egypt never set any conditions for the PLO and never made any demands regarding internal matters. I declare this before God for the record.

Al-Hawadith: But you have been tipped to represent the PLO in Cairo.

Al-Surani: I would be greatly honored to represent the PLO in Cairo. Egypt belongs to us all and it is deeply loved by everyone. It is the cultural, scientific, and industrial leadership.

Al-Hawadith: How do you explain the severe measure taken by the PFLP against Bassam Abu Sharif for attending the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting?

Al-Surani: This question gives me a chance to explain what we are and what we represent, for it seems to me that we are not a part of the Third World and that our democracy is not understood. The PFLP is entitled to take the steps it deems necessary against any of its members and to form its own views regarding any decision made by the PLO. Equally, an Executive Committee member is entitled to take opposite views if he so wishes. That is the secret of our survival and continuity. We are neither a dictatorial nor a fascist organization. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: What is the truth about the alleged meetings between [Syrian official] 'Ali Duba and [Fatah Central Committee Member Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] Abu al-Hawl in an East European country, and what has become of Palestinian-Syrian relations?

Al-Surani: The only meeting held so far was the one in Cyprus between Abu al-Hawl and Major General Ihmidni. There have been no other meetings. I am sorry to say that despite mediations by Arabs and friends, our relations with Syria have not made the desired progress. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: The Soviet consular delegation's visit to Tel Aviv has caused all kinds of speculations. What can you tell us about Palestinian-Soviet relations?

Al-Surani: Our relations with the Soviets are good; in fact, they are excellent. They have declared positions in support of complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, self-determination, a Palestinian state, and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Soviets told us about the consular delegation's visit months in advance. They said that the delegation's task would be strictly related to consular aspects, that their position is still the same and has not changed, and that any talk about restoring diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel was premature. We are in contact with the Soviets every step of the way. [passage omitted]

Communique on PLO Executive Committee Meetings

JN221735 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Communique issued by the PLO Executive Committee on its meetings in Tunis 18-20 August; date not given]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee met in Tunis 18-20 August 1987 to discuss important issues affecting our Palestinian Arab people and their national cause. The committee members also discussed the latest Palestinian and Arab developments on both the Arab and international levels.

The Palestinian situation: The PLO Executive Committee attached great importance to the present situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon. The committee expressed concern with the suffering being experienced in these camps, particularly Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, and Al-Rashidiyah, as a result of the continued siege, destruction, starvation, and killings and the continued Israeli naval blockade and naval and air raids against our camps and people and the Lebanese villages in the south.

The Executive Committee also studied the current attempts being made to uproot our people from their camps and to expel them from Lebanon.

The Executive Committee called on Arab governments and leaders to intervene to end this human tragedy, which is a disgrace to our Arab nation. The Executive Committee also called on the Arab masses and their parties and national forces to act and to express their political stand in support of the valiant refugee camps which have declared an open vigil until the siege is lifted. The Executive Committee appealed to international organizations, friends, human rights organizations, and solidarity committees of the world to carry out their humanitarian role in alleviating the sufferings of the Palestinian people. In view of the fact that Syria is the principal party responsible, politically and militarily, for security in West Beirut and the camps area, we call upon it to lift the military siege and food blockade against the camps, particularly the steadfast Shatila camp. Its inhabitants are suffeirng from hunger, thirst, epidemics, and a shortage of medicine. They are not being allowed to rebuild their camp, although more than 90 percent of the houses there have been destroyed.

Arab history will not forgive those who participate with Israel in exterminating the Palestinian people. They will be severely taken to task by future generations.

The situation in the occupied homeland: The PLO Executive Committee discussed the situation in the occupied homeland, the escalation of the repression and persecution of our struggling and steadfast Palestinian people and their national institutions, and the increase in suspect attempts by the Zionist occupation authorities, in collusion with some known Arab regimes, to strike at the national steadfastness of our valiant masses and the total support for the PLO in the occupied homeland and gain acceptance for the autonomy plot.

The Executive Committee in particular condemned the action taken by the Zionist occupation authorities to reduce the concession of the Arab Jerusalem Electric Company with the aim of liquidating it. The Executive Committee declared its total rejection of this decision and proclaimed its solidarity with and support for the company's workers. It saluted their courageous and patriotic stance, as well as our people's brave stand in support of their sons, the company's employees and workers.

The Executive Committee, which monitors everything that happens in the occupied homeland and which seeks to confront such developments by all possible measures, expressed its great pride in the steadfastness of our heroic people in their refugee camps, towns, villages, universities, institutions, and schools. It expressed pride in the escalation of the various forms of our people's struggle through magnificent mass uprisings that confirm their attachment to their land and their heroic defense of it. It pledged to our people to continue the struggle to liberate the homeland and to establish our independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Arab situation: The PLO Executive Committee studied Palestinian-Arab relations and stressed continued work in this regard to attain a unified Arab stand based on commitment to the principles of Palestinian struggle. These principles are represented by the right to repatriation, self-determination, the establishment of an independent national state, and adherence to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people in all forums and fields. In this regard, the Executive Committee noted the importance of holding an Arab summit conference to achieve Arab solidarity to confront the challenges and dangers posed to

the Arab nation in more than one area of the great Arab homeland.

The Iran-Iraq war, as well as the threats and dangers posed to the Arab land in that region, were among the topics that received the Executive Committee's attention. In this regard, the committee stressed its consistent stand condemning the continuation of this destructive war, rejecting aggression against or occupation of any Arab land, and supporting the Security Council resolution stipulating an immediate halt to this conflict along with withdrawal of the warring forces to the international borders of Iran and Iraq and negotiations to resolve the conflict peacefully. The committee valued Iraq's acceptance of all initiatives to stop this war.

While condemning foreign threats to the Arab Gulf states, particularly fraternal Kuwait, the Executive Committee expressed its solidarity with and support for these states. The Executive Committee noted that the ongoing tension in the Gulf resulting from the continuation of the war has led to the increase in the U.S. military presence in the area, thus opening the door to the return of foreign military bases to Arab territory. While it condemned U.S. military moves in the Gulf and the Mediterranean, the Executive Committee warned against the threats such moves pose to the Arab nation and to the independence of its peoples. It called for an end to such moves, the withdrawal of fleets, and the extinguishing of hotbeds of tension that constitute a pretext for such intervention.

With regard to the painful events which took place during the pilgrimage season in Mecca and the violation of the sanctity of the sacred house during the hajj, the Executive Committee condemned and expressed regret for such incidents and the loss of innocent lives.It urged that in the future God's house and all holy places should be spared such violations and be kept free of such polemics to ensurethat places of worship will be safe for the believers who visit them. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Let there be no obscenity, nor ungodliness, nor disputing in the pilgrimage. [Koranic verse]

On the international level, the Executive Committee affirmed that efforts will continue to convene an international conference with full powers to bring about peace in the Middle East, a conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the various parties in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. The conference should work on the basis of achieving the inalienable national rights of our people, including repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent national state.

With regard to Palestinian-international relations, the Executive Committee expressed its great appreciation for the stands of the friendly Soviet Union, the socialist countries, and the PRC in supporting the PLO and the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

The Executive Committee also appreciated the stands of the nonaligned countries, the African states, the Muslim states, and other friendly states in supporting the Palestinian people and their just cause.

The Executive Committee expressed its solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa for their national liberation. It also expressed its support for the frontline African states against the aggression of the racist Pretoria regime, which is allied with U.S. imperialism and world Zionism.

O steadfast masses of our people in our heroic camps! O masses of our people standing fast in our beloved land! O heroes in various positions of struggle within and outside our occupied territory! O prisoners and detainees in prisons and detention camps, be patient, persevere, be firm, and stand fast.

Dawn is coming, and we have a date with victory. We shall meet with you in Jerusalem.

Victory is coming; dawn is coming, God willing. Revolution until victory!

Reportage on Fighting With Libya in Northern Region

Libya Bombs Aozou 21 Aug

AB211938 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Dear listeners of Radio Chad, before going on to the international news, here is a press release that has just reached us. Aozou: Aozou was bombed throughout the day today. At 1400 [1300 GMT], the Zouar area was also bombed throughout the day. [as heard] Therefore, the Libyan Air force continues to carry out its genocide against our fellow countrymen in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti Region.

FANT Communique No 76

AB211946 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1855 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Communique No 76 issued by the FANT High Command in Ndjamena on 21 August]

[Text] As we announced to you in Communique No 74 concerning the attacks on the martyred town of Aozou on 19 August 1987 by four large Libyan columns, here are the overall final results of those battles:

On the enemy side: 405 Libyans killed, including several officers; 161 war prisoners were captured, including Colonel Abdul Salam Atwi and Captain Abdul Madjid (Salofara). Equipment seized: 25 Toyota vehicles equipped with 14.5-mm guns; 14 Toyota vehicles equipped with surface-to-surface weapons; 19 jeeps with 106-mm guns; 1 command jeep with radio; 1 Toyota with radio; 1 Landrover vehicle with radio; 37 Toyota troop carriers; 5 heavy-duty Mercedes.

Equipment destroyed: 18 jeeps with 106-mm guns; 46 Toyotas with 14.5-mm guns; (?7) Toyota troop carriers; 3 Toyotas with RF radios; 2 Mercedes 26-24 model; 2 T-55 tanks; 50 BMP's; 7 MIG-23's; 2 combat helicopters; 1 Mirage plane; 1 Tupolev 22.

Nothing will stop the FANT on their path toward total victory.

Captured Libyans Interviewed

AB221051 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Fifteen high-ranking Libyan officers — 3 captains and 12 second lieutenants — were interviewed this morning by our colleagues of the Arabic section [of Radio Ndjamena]. They were all captured on 8 August during the Libyan Army's attack against the FANT, which resulted in the FANT's recapture of the Aozou administrative post. Their ages vary between 22 and 41 years. Their statements, which were at times firm and at times drowned in tears, were addressed to the fascist Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. [Words indistinct] Al-Qadhdhafi and his band of murderers who have been governing in Tripoli.

Tofoumbaye, you were part of the group that went to the Presidency this morning:

[Recording of Libyan POW in Arabic]

[Tofoumbaye] That was the first interlocutor. He is Captain Saddick Mohamed Anny, a 32-year-old black man [words indistinct]. He is from (Monzop) near the town of (Sepa). This officer disclosed that he has always known that the Aozou administrative post belongs to the Republic of Chad. He does not understand why Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has always laid claim to this region. Capt Saddick made a revelation: Soviet advisers are in charge of training the Libyan soldiers at the Tanoa Base which is situated 100 km from the Chadian town of Aozou. These advisers come in groups of five or six a week. Heavy combat planes — MIG-23 fighters, transport planes, jet aircraft, surface-to-surface missiles, antiaircraft missiles, and so on and so forth handled by 3,000 soldiers, are stockpiled at this Tanoa Base. [passage omitted]

At Tanoa, on this 4 km Libyan base, the soldiers are ready to lay down their arms in the face of the courage of the FANT and the futility of this war. Do you know that Ouadi Doum, Zouar, and Faya-Largeau have been recaptured by the FANT?

Lieutenant Abdel Kader Moussa Salim, 24, quickly replied that he had heard the news on Radio Chad and BBC. Asked to describe his reactions, he said: I was very happy to hear the news but I could not react. But why did you turn your weapons against the FANT at Aozou? I swear that we were forced, he said. We are obliged to execute Mu'ammar al-Aadhdhafi's orders. These Libyans do not readily name al-Qadhdhafi, because doing so could lead to the execution of their brothers living in Libya. [passage omitted]

FANT Communique No 77

AB221420 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1342 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Communique No 77 issued by the FANT High Command on 22 August in Ndjamena]

[Text] Despite the crushing defeat inflicted on the Libyan (?troops), they continue unscrupulously and desperately to bomb some of our towns. Yesterday Ounianga and Gouro were bombed six times during the day.

Unyielding and indomitable FANT, valiant freedom fighters, brave Chadian sons, continue to show the same steadfastness and determination. The enemy's pride has been hurt and he will soon be destroyed as a result of his obstinance.

FANT Communique No 78

AB221919 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1858 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Communique No 78 issued by the FANT High Command on 22 August in Ndjamena]

[Text] After bombing Ounianga and Gouro during the day, yesterday, the Libyan Air Force resumed these same deadly bombings yesterday afternoon of Aozou where MIG-23 aircraft

and a combat helicopter were shot down over the town at 1700 local time.

Today, 22 August 1987, the Libyan annexationist troops through their Air Force intensively bombed the towns of Aozou and Bardai. The Chadian National Armed Forces, loyal to their mission, will continue to assume their responsibilities right to the end.

FANT Communique No 79

AB231925 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Communique No 79 issued by the FANT High Command on 23 August in Ndjamena]

[Text] Through the use of his extremely well equipped army and his petrol dollars, Al-Qadhdhafi dreams about exercising his supremacy over everybody, starting with Chad. He triggers off an open and total war which should forever destroy our country. Nevertheless, the Libyan occupational forces had the shock to discover that the Chadian National Armed Forces valiantly resist their attacks. This is why it strives to pour down tons and tons of bombs on our towns in the liberated area.

Today, the Libyan Air Force desperately bombed the towns of Aozou and Wour in the Tibesti region: The enslaving troops hoped that by intensifying and using all kinds of arms they would reduce our organizational capability and our combative ardour but the Chadian National Armed Forces hold steadfastly to their conviction of total victory. Forward, forward ever, freedom fighters!

Paris on Libyan Bombings

LD241056 Paris Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Further Libyan bombing of northern Chad took place yesterday morning against the town of Aozou and Bardai, in the northwest of the country. According to the Chadian Government 1,225 Libyan soldiers were killed and 362 captured during the successive offensives carried out by Libya since 14 August to recapture Aozou.

Radio Bardai Reports Fighting Between Tribes

AB212037 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1950 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] It has been learned form Chadian sources [words indistinct] that Habre, agent of America and France, has met with members of his tribe following the fighting between his tribe and the other Chadian tribes.

The same sources also say that the agent Habre has called on members of his tribe to be more vigilant against other tribes in the country [words indistinct]. The agent Habre also ordered members of his tribe to [words indistinct] observe the other tribes.

JANA: French Planes Bombing Tribes

LD231030 Tripoli JANA in English 0928 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, August 23, (JANA) — It has been learnt from relaible Chadian sources that French warplanes are bombing the tribes of Al-Hadjeria who are leading a wide scale rebellion against puppet Habre.

The sources asserted that many children, women and elderly people fell victim to the French raids during which poisonous gas and napalm bombs were used causing barbaric and ugly massacres.

The sources pointed out that the injured filled hospitals which led to a ban on citizens to visit them.

The sources asserted that Habre is no longer able to live in Ndjamena. He is sending all his forces to the north so as to make him safe from the mutinous Chadian tribes against him in Ndjamena and in the south and east of Chad.

JANA: Habre Suppresses Rebellion

LD231055 Tripoli JANA in English 0927 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, August 23 (JANA) — It was learnt from reliable Chadian sources that puppet Habre had dispatched forces headed by Captain Aissa Kli [name as received] to repress rebellion by the Chadian Al-Hadjeria tribes.

The sources confirmed that mutinous tribes of Al-Hadjeria obliterated all the forces sent by Habre.

JANA: Goukouni Vows To Renew Armed Struggle

LD221515 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Rome, Hannibal [August] 22, *Jamahiryah News Agency* — Mr Goukouni Oueddei declared that he will lead armed struggle anew against puppet Habre and his followers. He said 'This is the only method to respond to Habre.'

Mr Goukouni reaffirmed the importance of relations linking the peoples of Great Jamahiryah and Chad. He asseted 'These relations are historical and cordial and should not be subject to debate.'

Goukouni was asked on the size of the armed struggle which he is to lead, he said 'I will reply to that the day I begin this struggle.'

Mr Goukouni pointed out in his statement that France and the American Administration provide support and weapons to puppet Habre and that French soliers are now in Chad which explains recent developments in Chad.

Burkinabe Minister Arrives With Sankara Message

AB221942 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Captain Henri Zongo, member of the National Council of the Revolution and [Burkinabe] minister of economic promotion, arrived today in Ndjamena. He is to be granted an audience by the head of state at this moment. Capt Henri Zongo is accompanied by the Burkinabe secretary of state for justice and is expected to deliver a personal message from Captain Thomas Sankara to El-Hadj Hissein Habre.

Meets Habre, Comments

AB241104 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Captain Henri Zongo, the Burkinabe minister of economic promotion who arrived in Ndjamena last Saturday [22 August], left yesterday after a 2-hour meeting with the head of state, El-Hadj Hissein Habre. Their lengthy discussion shows the importance of the topics examined by the president and the Burkinabe envoy, who was accompanied on the trip by Secretary of State for Justice Antoine Sambo Komi and National Council of the Revolutionmember Lieutenant Traore Dango. Speaking to [name indistinct], the Burkinabe minister explained the purpose of his visit.

[Begin recording] First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to President Hissein Habre for the warm reception and the discussions that we have just held with him. We delivered a message of fraternity and (?peace) from the comrade president of Burkina Faso, Captain Thomas Sankara, to his brother, President Hissein Habre. Obviously, I cannot reveal the contents of the message, but I can sum it up by saying that current developments in the Chad-Libya conflict oblige a country such as Burkina Faso, a sister country to Chad and Libya, to make its modest contribution in these circumstances to the solution of this conflict, by showing not only wisdom but especially clear-sightedness with the aim of safeguarding the supreme interests of Africa. It is within this context that we are here to ask [words indistinct] to (?listen) to all the good-will missions that are sent here, so that very soon the two countries will agree to sit around a negotiating table to find a solution to this conflict that has lasted too long. [passage indistinct] [passage omitted] [end recording]

Togo Foreign Minister Delivers Message to Habre

AB221722 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Togolese Minister for Foreign Affairs Yaovi Adodo was received in an audience at 1330 by head of state El-Hadj Hissein Habre. Mr Adodo delivered a message from Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema to his Chadian counterpart, President Hissein Habre. Present at the talks between the head of state and Mr Yaovi Adodo were our acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Soumaila Mahamat and the private permanent under secretary of the head of state, [name indistinct]. Let us listen to the Togolese foreign affairs minister who spoke to newsmen and explained the purpose of his mission to Ndjamena:

[Begin Adodo recording] First, I would like to thank President Hissein Habre who granted me an audience immediately after my arrival in Ndjamena. During this audience, I gave him a message from his brother and friend, President Eyadema of the Republic of Togo. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Radio Denies Charges on Torture of Journalist

AB232156 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] Why was (Salen Gaba) arrested at the beginning of July by the Chadian security forces? Our brother journalist was jailed neither for his opposition to President Hissein Habre's regime, for his opinions, nor for any tribalistic reasons as some humanitarian organizations such as Amnesty International is implying, as is in the news dispatched by the international press.

(Salen Gaba), a journalist, is simply serving a prison term in Ndjamena for possession of a weapon in the countryside in one of the 14 districts of the Republic of Chad. According to various reliable sources, our brother journalist was responsible for the death of two innocent peasants. At this time, the journalist (Salen Gaba) is not being tortured as the humanitarian organizations and the Western media are alleging. Contrary to rumors which have been circulating about this affair for 2 months now, (Salen Gaba) is well treated. [passage omitted]

Security Force Reportedly Travels to Saudi Arabia

NC240934 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] The Egyptian *Al-Ahram* newspaper reveals today that forces and officers from the Egyptian central security organ, who are specially trained in combating terrorism, have arrived in Saudi Arabia. The mission of these forces is to help maintain security and order in the wake of the recent Mecca incidents.

The paper says that these forces arrived aboard the same plane that had transported Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr to Saudi Arabia. The Interior Minister had traveled to that country to perform the pilgrimage.

AL-AHRAM Views Return of U.S. Envoy to Syria

NC230500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA) — The *Al-Ahram* newspaper comments on the implications of the U.S. ambassador's return to Damascus, which coincides with the return home of the U.S. journalist kidnapped in Lebanon 8 [as received] months ago. In its Sunday editorial, the paper says that despite the fact that U.S. officials in Washington have denied any link between the two events, their very simultaneity gives the impression that there is some connection between them. Syria has played two cards, linking them in a bid to improve relations with the United States.

Al-Ahram states that the return of the ambassador to Damascus is a good thing, for it will lead to an improvement in relations. However, the Syrian method should be denounced because it indicates collusion with terrorists, as well as an attempt to benefit from their gangsterism and make political gains by gambling with the lives of ordinary people. The paper says that it has become clear from reliable reports that Syria was behind the release of the U.S. journalist, which resulted from an agreement between its representatives and those of the pro-Iranian Hizballah. There are also indications that an agreement exists between the Syrian and Iranian regimes to use the barbaric kidnapping of helpless individuals for political and military blackmail.

Concluding its editorial, *Al-Ahram* warns against the danger of doing nothing decisive about this kind of behavior, thus paving the way for an endless recurrence of similar actions as long as the afected party continues to make major concessions at the highest level.

Sudanese 'Resentment' Seen Over Chad Stance

PM211427 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Aug 87 p 1

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sitar report: "Displeasure in Khartoum Over Egyptian Statements Against Sudan"]

[Text] *Al-Wafd* has learned from reliable sources that general resentment presently reigns in Sudan with regard to statements made by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, in which he announced Egypt's support for Chad against any threat from the north, in other words Libya, or from the east, meaning Sudan. *Al-Wafd* has also learned that the Sudanese Government, headed by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, has refused to lodge an official protest with the authorities in Egypt in a desire not to aggravate the present strain in Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Al-Wafd has learned that the political leadership in Egypt held intensive contacts with the Sudanese Government last week in order to persuade it not to allow Libyan forces to use Sudanese territory to launch a massive attack on Ndjamena. Egypt warned Sudan against involvement in the war now raging between Libya and Chad over the border area of Aozou Province, which is rich in uranium. Sudan has frequently denied the presence of Libyan forces in west Sudan and has announced its readiness to mediate between Tripoli and Chad despite the intransigence of both sides. The sources added that the official Egyptian media is presently paving the way for abrogation of the joint defense agreement ratified between the two countries and noncommitment to its clauses in the event of an outside threat to Sudan. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Sudanese prime minister, announced the abrogation of the agreement 3 months ago. The sources confirmed that a Chadian official secretly visited Cairo last week to persuade Egypt to mediate between Khartoum and Ndjamena. The Chadian official has claimed the existence of 12 Libyan armored divisions inside Sudanese territory preparing to launch a number of attacks against Chadian territory. In addition, Egypt has come under French pressure to the same end. Moreover, the sources added that President Mubarak's meeting next month with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, during their attendance at Ethiopia's Republic Day celebrations, if held, will be fraught with tension.

Romanian Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC231100 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA) — (Ion Spoiam), envoy of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, arrived in Cairo this morning with a message for President Husni Mubarak from the Romanian leader.

The Romanian envoy was received at the airport by Ambassador Ahmad Hatatah, assistant foreign minister, and Romanian ambassador in Cairo Ion Cozma.

Sudanese Agricultural Official Arrives for Talks

NC230931 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA) — Dr 'Ali 'Uthman Abu 'Affan, the Sudanese minister of state for agriculture, arrived in Cairo this morning at the head of a delegation for a 1-week visit to Egypt.

During the visit, the Sudanese minister of state will attend the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Egytpian-Sudanese Company for Agricultural Integration, which is scheduled to be held tomorrow. He will also lead the Sudanese delegation to the meetings of the company's General Assembly. The Egyptian side will be led by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation.

The Egyptian-Sudanese company has reclaimed 110,000 feddans in Sudan since 1977, of which 78,000 feddans have been planted with crops.

Paper Sees 'Zionist Scheme' To Partition Country

PM211241 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 17 Aug 87 pp 1,9

[Unattributed report: "Secrets of Assassination Incidents; Zionist Scheme To Turn Egypt Into Another Lebanon"]

[Text] Security sources have confirmed that the recent incidents of violence are attributable to a Zionist scheme working internally against Egypt and its people. It is a plot which seeks to partition Egypt into small statelets.

The scheme has a number of axes which are being skillfully implemented. First, it is aimed at hitting the Islamic trend in Egypt, since this is the only obstacle to the implementation of the Zionist scheme. At the same time, it seeks to create sectarian sedition in Egypt, as well as carry out terrorist operations with serious repercussions in an effort to spread the spirit of chaos, undermine stability, and infiltrate and confuse Egyptian security efforts so that it becomes difficult to track down the executors of this scheme.

The recent assassination attempts are considered to be the latest means of implementing this scheme. It has become very clear that these operations were aimed at leveling the charge against the Islamic trend, especially after the instructions issued by the political leadership in Egypt to release all Islamic detainees who have been proved innocent with regard to the recent incidents of violence. The scheme was an attempt to put pressure on the political leadership and to prove that it made a mistake in its recent instructions.

Reports from security sources on the incidents have revealed new facts about the terrorist operations to which important figures and members of diplomatic missions are exposed in Egypt. The reports noted that despite the arrests of a large number of suspect members of Islamic groups, assassination attempts still threaten the Egyptian scene. This means that there are other elements carrying out such acts with a view to directing them at the Islamic groups. These secret reports have been sent to [interior minister] Major Zaki Badr.

Furthermore, inquires conducted by Egyptian intelligence services have revealed another axis on which the scheme centers; namely, the creation of sectarian sedition in Egypt by sending letters from Jersey City, U.S.A. to numerous Egyptian ministers, senior writers, and media officials all attacking Islam and accusing it of being the religion of blind fanaticism and backwardness. The Zionists managed to recruit some Egyptian immigrants to implement this scheme.

The security sources have pointed out that the plot seeks to partition Egypt into four conflicting small statelets: the northern part for Muslims; the southern part for Christians; Sinai and eastern Egypt for Arab bedouins; and the western part for Nubians and Egyptians of black origin. This is in an attempt to turn Egypt into another Lebanon.

Former Interior Minister on 'Extremism'

PM211221 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Aug 87 p 3

[Interview with Major General al-Nabawi Isma'il, former interior minister, by Ayman Nur in Cairo on 14 August]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Nur] After the assassination attempt made against [former interior minister] Major General Abu Basha yesterday, you were also the target of an assassination attempt. Do you believe that interior ministers have become more of a target than other people? In your opinion, what are the reasons for this?

[Isma'il] This is true. Possibly the direct reason for this is that an interior minister is usually the one who shoulders responsibility for applying the law. Consequently, he is pushed into a confrontation with those who violate the law.

[Nur] Do you not believe that there are some excesses on the part of the security services which might be one of the reasons for this phenomenon?

[Isma'il] There are some policemen who might commit excesses; however, there is a sound and broad base which is carrying out its duties perfectly. I said before that the enemies of policemen have always been those who violate the law. The duty of the police is to deal with offenders in an appropriate way and to treat law-abiding citizens properly. [passage omitted]

[Nur] Do you accuse elements of the Islamic trend of attempting to assassinate you?

[Isma'il] I will not do what others do; namely, I will not anticipate investigations in an attempt to identify those elements, despite the fact that from the incident's circumstances it is most likely that there is a link between it and a previous series of incidents. However, this is not a firm conclusion. I prefer that we should not be hasty in this particular matter.

[Nur] In your opinion, can this series of incidents be described as a response to the government's extremism in confronting political and ideological trends, or are they acts resulting from the extremist ideologies of some people?

[Isma'il] This series of incidents represents neither reactions nor actions. It is a plot aimed at Egypt's security and safety, as well as the people's security and this country's stability. [passage omitted]

[Nur] You have been accused of involvement in torture. Was the assassination attempt against you a kind of revenge or a way of settling accounts?

[Isma'il] I have not been accused of participating in torture.The charges brought by the prosecutor general did not include me or Maj Gen Abu Basha. All that happened was that we were questioned about claims made by defendants in the case of the Al-Jihad organization.

[Nur] Is it possible that such claims were the reason for the assassination attempt?

[Isma'il] Yes, they might be a reason in the opinion of the perpetrators or those who are planning for them. They are subjected to brainwashing operations; ideas and ideologies, which can be right or wrong, are planted in their minds. [passage omitted]

[Nur] If extremist behavior is not caused by detention or in reaction to the authority's extremism, then what is the reason for its emergence?

[Isma'il] As I have said, these are foreign plots aimed against Egypt. They are being implemented inside the country to the detriment of all Egyptians.

[Nur] Do you believe that Egypt is suffering from religious extremism?

[Isma'il] Extremism and terrorism are the disease of the age. The entire world is suffering from such phenomena. [passage omitted]

[Nur] Have you received telephone or written threats in the past?

[Isma'il] No, I have not.

[Nur] Are you not worried or disturbed by the recent incident which confirms that you are a target of certain trends?

[Isma'il] Quite the contrary. This seems a very natural thing to me. I have been exposed to scores of attempts to assassinate me. Among them was the incident that took place while raiding a hideout belonging to the Repudiation and Renunciation (Al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah) group, as well as one which occured in Upper Egypt when I was a young officer. However, all this does not worry me.

Economic Committee Approves Agreements

NC191616 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] The Higher Committee on Economic Policies and Affairs met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. The committee approved a number of agreements, including:

The agreement designating Cairo as the seat of the Arab Council on Children and Development;

The agreement between Egypt and Djibouti on aviation cooperation;

The cooperation agreement between Egypt and Yugoslavia in social insurance, which stipulates that workers from one country when employed in the other will enjoy the insurance benefits applicable in the host country;

The agreement between Egypt and Australia to build a wheat silo in Sawhaj, with a storage capacity of 30,000 tons, at a cost of 6.5 million Australian dollars and 3 million Egyptian pounds;

The agreement that Canada will grant Egypt 14 million Canadian dollars to finance the purchase of intermediate goods; and

The agreement that the United States will grant $50 million to Egypt to finance the private sector's imports of production requirements.

This was announced by Counselor Ahmad Radwan, general secretary to the Cabinet.

Lower Crude Oil Prices Announced for Aug

NC211023 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA) — The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation [EGPC] has set new prices for exported oil in accordance with fluctuations in the international oil market, which have resulted in price reductions for crude of $1 to $2 per barrel.

In a statement to the *Al-Ahram* newspaper, published today, EGPC Chairman Muhammad Ma'bad announced the new prices, which will be in effect until 31 August. They are as follows:

Gulf of Suez and Ra's al-Bihar crude: $17.50 per barrel; Bala'im crude: $16.80 per barrel; Ra's Badran crude: $16.30; and Ra's Gharib crude: $15.70.

Al-Qadhdhafi Pledges To Help Free Terry Waite

LD230817 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Hannibal [August] (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has received Dr (Lacey), a representative of the Anglican Church, who begged him in the name of the church and humanity to intervene for the release of Terry Waite, who disappeared last January while on a visit to Lebanon.

The brother leader of the revolution affirmed to the church representative that he would work for peace and do all that he can to secure the release of Terry Waite.

Suriname President Arrives in Tripoli 22 Aug

LD221921 Tripoli JANA in English 1854 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 22, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The President of the Republic of Suriname Desire Bouterse arrived this afternoon in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

The president of Suriname was given a massive official reception as Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi was at the head of the people receiving him.

Taking part in the welcoming cermony were members of the General People's Committee, a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and a number of ambassadors accredited to Great Jamahiriyah.

After the performance of the national anthems of the two countries, the president of Suriname inspected a row of guards of honour who stood to greet him.

The president of Suriname lauded the good relations linking Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Suriname.

In a statement to JANA, the president declared that his visit to Great Jamahiriyah came within the framework of bolstering and developing cooperation between the two countries for the benefit of the Libyan Arab people and the people of Suriname. The president affirmed his country's desire to set up good relations with all peoples.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD221922 Tripoli JANA in English 1857 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 22, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution today received Colonel Desire Bouterse, the leader of the revolution in the Republic of Suriname.

Al-Qadhdhafi Banquet for Guest

LD231040 Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, August 23, (JANA) — The leader of the revolution last night gave a banquet in honour of Colonel DesireBouterse, the leader of revolution in the Republic of Suriname.

Taking part in the banquet were Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, members of the delegation accompanying the leader of Suriname, a number of members of the General People's Committee and members of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Great Jamahiriyah.

Bouterse Departs 23 Aug

LD231246 Tripoli JANA in English 1105 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 23, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* – Colonel Desire Bouterse, the leader of the revolution in the Republic of Suriname, left Tripoli this morning after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Colonel Bouterse was given a massive farewell ceremony at Tripoli International Airport headed by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi. Taking part in the ceremony were a number of members of the General People's Committee and officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

The Surinamese leader of revolution inspected, in the company of Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the guards of honour who stood in salute.

Colonel Bouterse expressed pleasure at his visit to Great Jamahiriyah and his meeting with the leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution.

In a statement to JANA, the Surinamese leader declared "my visit comes within the framework of good relations linking Great Jamahiriyah and Suriname. [quotation marks as received]

The Surinamese leader lauded the formidable development and progress seen on the soil of Great Jamahiriyah in all fields. He said I visited Great Jamahiriyah two years ago and I have noticed a great difference between what I saw then and now.

Democratic Party Withdraws From Ruling Coalition

Statement on Breakup Issued

JN221032 Khartoum SUNA in English
1015 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 22, SUNA — The two ruling parties — the Al-Ummah and the Democratic Unionist have agreed to break off coalition between them.

Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party "DUP" Muhammad 'Uthamn al-Mirghani has officially informed here yesterday leader of the Al-Ummah Party and Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on the DUP decision.

The crisis erupted between the two ruling parties when DUP representative at the five-man ruling State Council Hamid al-Hasan Abdallah Yasin resigned last month and the Constituent Assembly parliament mominated advocate Al-Mirghani al-Nasri instead of the DUP nominee Ahmad Al- Sayyid Hamad who was was considered by the Al-Ummah Party deputies as an element of former regime of ousted President al-Numayri.

The two leaders, in a press statement issued last night by the state minister for culture and information, agreed on the continuity of cooperation between the two parties.

The State Council and the cabinet and all the ruling institutions will be in effect till formation of a national government or a coalised one.

"The policies of the government will remain as its [as received] till reviewing the political situation in the country and forming a new government in two weeks time," the press statement said.

Parties Agree To Cooperate

JN221530 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1446 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Aug (SUNA) — Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] has informed Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Al-Ummah Party and prime minister, of the DUP leadership's decision to dissolve the coalition with the Al-Ummah Party.

The Al-Ummah Party had supported Al-Mirghani al-Nasri, who won an election in the Constituent Assembly over the DUP candidate for the State Council, a post allocated to the DUP according to the existing coalition agreement.

Al-Siyasah, which recently began to support the Al-Ummah Party and its leader Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, reports that Al- Mahdi and Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani agreed to maintain cooperation between their two parties as a national necessity. They also agreed that the government apparatus should continue in its present arrangement whether a new national government is formed or the coalition is restored. Al-Mirghani and Al-Mahdi also agreed to maintain existing policies and to discuss alternative situations and the resulting vacuum not later than 7 September.

Al-Tum Muhammad al-Tum, minister of state at the Ministry of Culture and Information and the DUP minister in the government, announced the DUP decision late last night.

DUP To Oppose Emergency

JN221036 Khartoum SUNA in English
1020 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 22, SUNA — The Democratic Unionist Party "DUP" will oppose the regulation of the state of emergency if it will be presented to the Constituent Assembly in its current formula, an official source of the DUP said to the daily *Al-Siyasah* published here today.

The DUP, which broke off coalition with the Al-Ummah Party of Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday, has previously called on the government to reconsider the regulation of the state of emergency before presenting it to the Constituent Assembly, the source added.

It is to be recalled that the president of the State Council, Ahmad al-Mirghani, who represents the DUP in the Council, had signed the announcement of the state of emergency.

Emergency Law To Be Amended

JN221520 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1452 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Aug (SUNA) — Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Al-Ummah Party, and Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, agreed during a meeting yesterday to withdraw the emergency law from the Constituent Assembly and amend it in accordance with the country's security situation and within the framework of confronting armed robbery, smuggling, and hoarding while not conflicting with basic liberties.

In another development, a statement was issued by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani's office that an agreement had been reached between Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mighani on declaring the Constituent Assembly in open session after the Democratic Unionist Party leader had informed Al-Mahdi of the party's decision to break off the coalition between the two parties.

DUP To Hold Press Conference

JN231205 Khartoum SUNA in English
1050 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 23 Aug (SUNA) — [passage omitted] The expected climax of the row came yesterday when DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani conveyed to his Al-Ummah vis-a-vis the DUP decision of ending the coalition between the two parties. [sentence as received] Al-Mirgahni however failed to come up with an explanation as to why his party took the move.

But in a recent development the DUP has announced it would hold a press conference in which "all the reasons behind the

coalition dissolution" would be announced, besides a comprehensive statement "on all the practices of the Al-Ummah Party" during the past two years will be made public, according to press reports here today. Dr Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad who was rejected by the Al-Ummah when proposed by DUP for the post of State Council member said the current crisis has injected a new life into the DUP.

The two parties have nevertheless agreed on the formation of either a multiparty government or a new coalition cabinet.

Meanwhile Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi of the Al-Ummah Party has taken up the initiative and announced that he has already begun contacts with the various political forces for the formation of a national government. He indicated that he drafted a plan of a national government which he would distribute to the various political forces today for deliberations on Monday. The DUP in a statement issued by the daily *Al-Siyasah* today said it has made up its mind on the national government or the opposition. It has ruled out the option of another coalition as orchestered [as received] one time by the Al-Ummah Party.

The dissolution of the coalition means either the resignation of the government or a vote of confidence on it, said the leader of the Islamic National Front Dr Hasan al-Turabi.

He told the daily *Al-Siyasah* that what was going on between the two co-ruling parties was a new formula for the continuation of the coalition. The Islamic National Front (INF) is the main opposition party. With fifty MP's in the parliament it comes in the third place after the Al-Ummah and the DUP.

He said both parties have contacted the INF with regards to the national government. he said the INF was waiting for an official notice so that it would seriously consider whether or not to take part in the proposed national government.

Meanwhile Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday said the main African bloc in the parliament the Sudanese National Party has agreed in principle to take part in the said government however the South Sudan Political Association has announced the African bloc in the parliament refuses to take part in any national government composed of "Al-Ummah and minor political parties". He said the bloc favours a national government from within the parliament.

The secretary general of the Sudanese Communist Party Mahmud Ibrahim Nuqud told *Al-Siyasah* on the dissolution of the coalition that "Sudan does not tolerate political games. [no end quotation mark as received]

Al-Mahdi on 'National Government'

JN221853 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Aug (SUNA) — Following the announcement of the breakup of the coalition between the Al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] yesterday evening, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and leader of the Al-Ummah Party, today said work is under way to form a national government in accordance with a program and a new structure according to a fixed time frame.

Al-Mahdi added that as of today he has begun to contact key political figures inside and outside the Constituent Assembly to explain the form of the national government proposed by the Al-Ummah Party. He pointed out that he had sent a message to Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, DUP leader, explaining the achievements of the current national unity government and announcing entry into a new phase represented by the formation of a national government in accordance with the results of contacts with key political figures, who will have in their hands the [national] government proposal at dawn tomorrow.

The prime minister and leader of the Al-Ummah Party explained that he had invited all southern parties and representatives to a meeting on Monday to discuss their role in the next phase. He pointed out that an understanding has been reached with the Sudanese National Party concerning the next phase. Al-Mahdi asserted that defining the next phase and forming a government will take place before 7 September. He noted that he will hold a press conference after a committee of eight members of the Al-Ummah Party for consultations on and explanation of the national government proposal concludes its work and submits a report on any agreement it may reach with the other parties.

Concerning the management of the country's affairs in the period between the announcement of the break up of the coalition and the formation of the awaited government, Al- Mahdi asserted that it had been agreed that the ministers will continue working as colleagues in the current national unity government with a team spirit and will be committed to the implementation of agreed policies with all efficiency. Moreover, he added, they will attend meetings of all concerned councils with great discipline and avoid bringing party differences into the ministries' performance so that work will continue until an alternative situation is established. They will also avoid introducing controversial topics in the Constituent Assembly and will continue to coordinate on Assembly business.

The agreement also provides for ascertaining the soundness of information policy so that it will continue within the framework of the agreed announcement until further notice. It also provides for maintaining a team spirit, keeping deliberations objective, and speeding up the settlement of the general situation prior to the deadline. The agreement also provides for withdrawing the emergency law from the Constituent Assembly as long as it is being considered by the judicial authorities. The emergency ministerial committee will consult with military, police, and administrative technicians to define amendments that must be made to the emergency law and set the length of time for its continuation on the condition that the topic be submitted according to a decision by the Council of Ministers as soon as possible.

DUP Calls for New 'National Government'

EA241210 Khartoum SUNA in English
0930 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Aug (SUNA) — The leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani,

has said his party stands for the formation of a national government for the upcoming period. Al-Mirghani stated yesterday that the party reached a consensus of forming a national government in recognition of the existing political situation in the Sudan and due to challenges confronting the country. He pointed [out] that the DUP has called for the formation of a committee drawn from political parties to work out a unified conception for the suggested government so as to control the process of the government. He said his party's plans also call on the existing government to submit its resignation to the parliament in preparation for the election of the new government. Al-Mirghani has fixed the next 7 September as a deadline for the formation of the new government.

Meanwhile, Premier and leader of the Al-Ummah Party Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, in continuation of his efforts on formation of a new government, yesterday met separately with leaders of the Sudanese Communist Party and B'ath Socialist Party, and briefed them on the conception of his party on forming a national government. The Al-Ummah Party also assigned a committee chaired by member of the State Council, Dr 'Ali Hasaan Taj al-Din, to discuss the matter with the Islamic National Front, INF, and the Sudanese National Party of Father Philip Abbas Ghabbush.

Minister Assails Coalition Breakup

JN221859 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Aug (SUNA) — Dr Husayn Abu Salih, member of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] Political Bureau, a DUP member of parliament, and minister of health, has said the announcement of the break up of the ruling coalition wastes precious time and creates a sort of instability that should not exist. The minister told SUNA that the announcement yesterday evening was unfortunate, although it was issued by a large number of DUP members. The minister asserted that his resignation from the cabinet is still in effect.

Minister Reportedly Bribed by Foreign Diplomat

JN221514 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Aug (SUNA) — Today's edition of the newspaper *Al-Siyasah* says it has a cassette tape of a meeting between a senior official, who is also a minister, and a foreign diplomat. In the meeting, the minister divulged his party's secrets in return for 500,000 pounds, which he actually received. The money was placed in a box brought to the minister's house as an apple box.

The newspaper adds that the minister, in return for briefing the diplomat on what had happened in the meetings of his party's political bureau and other top secret matters, demanded that the diplomat give him an additional 500,000 pounds. The diplomat promised to give him this sum in what the paper called the political scandal of the age.

The paper threatened to publish the contents of the cassette unless this senior official resigns from the cabinet and unless the supreme leadership removes him from his party.

It is clear from the report that the cassette is linked to an official of the Democratic Unionist Party, one of the two parties in the existing [as received] coalition with the Al-Ummah Party led by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Interior Minister Condemns Incident

JN231152 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum Aug. 23 SUNA — Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn who is also SC Secretary General party [as received] the Democratic Unionist Party "DUP" issued statement here today regarding the news published by the daily *Al-Siyasah* in its yesterday issue that minister and senior partizan leader received a half million pounds from a foreign diplomat against providing the diplomat with his party's secrets.

Al-Husayn condemned the incident and described it as "a treason to the country and the citizens."

He challenged in his capacity as interior minister the newspaper to publish all the details of the incident to the citizens within 24 hours and that he will adopt legal measures against the paper if it doesn't publish the details of the incident.

Al-Husayn further affirmed that his party is against such practices.

Al-Siyasah yesterday published that it received a cassette in which a meeting between a minister and senior partizan leader and foreign diplomatic was recorded and that the minister received a half million Sudanese pounds from the foreign diplomat against providing him with his party's secrets.

The paper did not give further details on the incident which it published the news in its first page in its yesterday issue.

Correction to Garang AL-MUSAWWAR Interview

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Cairo Paper Interviews SPLM Leader Garang," published in the 21 August Near East and South Asia *Daily Report*, page G 9, column two, paragraph five, line one:

...that there are Libyan forces in Kurdufan....(changing "U.S." to "Libyan" per AL-MUSAWWAR correction)

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Visiting U.S. Congressman Solarz

JN221045 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Manama, 22 Aug (WAKH) — Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received Stephen Solarz, member of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, who is currently visiting Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, and the U.S. ambassador to Bahrain.

Tehran: Hezbollah To 'Avenge' Mecca Dead

LD221828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] IRNA reports that, following the crime of the Al Sa'ud rulers and the massacre of defenseless pilgrims at God's house, the Bahrain hezbollah have stressed in a statement, which condemns the United States as the main culprit of this inhumane crime, that they will avenge the blood of these innocent people on the Al Sa'ud rulers.

The same report adds that the statement says: Following this grave tragedy, which took place at the hands of U.S. hirelings and the corrupt and criminal Al Sa'ud regime, it became clear to the world ulema and intellectuals that the Al Sa'ud regime has proven that by committing this crime in a holy month and in the sacred house of God it has no links with true Islam. This has become another blot of shame on their black and disgraceful history. The mercenaries of the U.S. regime of Al Sa'ud rolled into dust and blood thousands of innocent men, women, young and old from different nationalities when they were responding to the divine call, strong and steadfast, by relying on their righteous faith and raising their cry of disavowal of infidels, which was one of the slogans of the hajj rituals.

The statement also says: The United States and the rotten Al Sa'ud regime should realize that this barbaric massacre will not remain unanswered, and that those sinister and criminal hands, which insulted the sanctity of the house and violated the immunity of the pilgrims and Muslims, will be cut off. The hezbollahi ummah of Bahrain will not remain silent in the face of this horrific crime and will avenge the blood of the martyrs.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Departs for Arab League Session

LD221032 Kuwait KUNA in English 0934 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 22 (KUNA) HE Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad announced Saturday that member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council have lost hope in convincing Iran to stop the ongoing Gulf war.

Talking to KUNA prior to his departure for Tunisia to attend an emergency Arab League's foreign ministers session, Shaykh Sabah said all attempts by Gulf and Arab contacts with the Iranian Government had failed. "We, in the GCC, are tired of this subject, because nobody in Tehran is ready to listen," Shaykh Sabah said.

But he expressed hope that "some parties would heed the voice of reason, especially following the Security Council Resolution" which calls for ceasefire in the seven-years war, freeing prisoners of war and withdrawal of troops to the internationally recognized borders. "This will be for the good of our peoples and the protection of our region from all threats," he stressed.

Regarding the shipping situation in the Arabian Gulf, Shaykh Sabah said the waterway will not be safe as long as mines are planted in it and "I believe that the European countries realize that the Gulf is a very vital waterway, hence I have no right to object or accept their minesweepers but I believe it is their right to protect their interests especially when these waters are of an international rather than regional character".

Talking about the foreign ministers' meeting, the deputy premier expressed thanks to the Tunisian Government for calling for this emergency session to discuss threats facing the Gulf region.

He added that he would give an extensive explanation of the situation to the ministers, and said "I am hopeful that the circumstances through which the Arab world is passing make it a must for us to unite against any party that wants to infringe upon sovereignty of any Arab country".

The foreign minister said the subject of convening an Arab summit is not on the agenda but he hoped that it would be discussed by the ministers.

Cabinet Minister Makes Statement on Tunis Meetings

LD231302 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] The Kuwaiti cabinet has reviewed the current deliberations and consultations being held as part of the preparations for holding the emergency session of the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis this evening. Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, made the following statement:

The Council of Ministers has followed with great interest the preparations for the Arab League Council extraordinary meeting that will convene in Tunis this evening. The session acquires particular importance due to the current crucial conditions, in which our Arab nation faces dangers and threats from all sides, including the Iraq-Iran war and the repercussions and consequences of its continuation, which threatens the security of the entire Arab homeland.

The Council of Ministers expressed its satisfaction at the unanimous agreement by the sister Arab countries to participate in this session out of their realization of the great national responsibility laid upon their shoulders. The Council of Ministers hopes that the conferees will succeed in formulating a firm Arab

stance that will rise to the level of the challenges threatening our Arab nation and contribute effectively to the international community's efforts to implement its unanimous will as embodied in UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for a just and urgent end to this devastating war.

The Council of Ministers expresses its hope that the session will provide a positive first stepping-stone on the road to joint Arab action that would restore to the Arab nation its unity and strength and guide it toward constructive work that will realize the Arab people's hopes, ambitions, and aspirations.

Interior Minister Interviewed on Terrorism

LD240916 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0727 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Aug (KUNA) — Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti minister of the interior, has accused foreign quarters, which he did not name, of being behind the terrorist operations witnessed by Kuwait lately. However, he affirmed, "For those with evil intent, Kuwait's territory will be difficult to penetrate."

Shaykh Nawwaf was speaking in an interview with the weekly Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Yaqazah*, to be published on Wednesday. He said that the "cohesion of our domestic front, which is characteristic of the old and modern Kuwait, is stronger and more solid than all the plots hatched and all the acts planned against us."

He added: "The events affecting the country's security have failed to drive a wedge in our domestic front. These events were perpetrated by irresponsible people at external instigation." He affirmed that "the sentiments of the true citizens and residents reflect a true love for every inch of Kuwait's good generous land."

"We must not forget that we live in a world that suffers from bloody security incidents, Shaykh Nawwaf said, adding "even the advanced countries have called these incidents organized terrorism." "If we were to compare our security conditions and the cohesion of our domestic front with others — and we cannot live in isolation from this world — we would realize that, despite everything, we live in peace."

Asked "why the Kuwaiti authorities have not resorted to ruthless methods as is the usual practice in other countries," Shaykh Nawwaf said: "We do not believe in the policy of ruthlessness, because as a state we deal with laws and we prefer to deal withthe spirit of these laws. Anyone who [words indistinct] will receive the punishment due to him under the law through a just trial. At the trial the accused may say what he has to say and the courts will in the end pass their just verdict."

"As long as we have accepted the law to organize relations among us, we have no reason not to let things proceed naturally."

He affirmed that "questions of security are such that they cannot be dealt with leniently," he said, adding, "we are in control of the situation and have been tightening our grip in order to protect the lives and property of the citizens. This is a matter over which we accept no bargaining."

Shaykh Nawwaf said: "Anyone who commits an infringment of the law, no matter how small, must receive the just punishment due to him. This particular value is one we cherish and are proud of, just as we cherish and feel proud of the cohesion of our domestic front."

In reply to a question on the fate of the terrorists who carried out evil sabotage action in Kuwait, Shaykh Nawwaf said: "I would like to stress to everyone that we will not be lenient with those who are serving prison sentences and the judicial rulings passed on them will be carried out. God told the truth when he said: We were not unjust to them, but they were unjust to themselves."

He added: "They were unjust to themselves and wanted to inflict evil on the homeland; they betrayed its people. I pray to God Almighty to perpetuate the gift of amity, cohesion, and harmony so that Kuwait will remain an oasis of security and peace under its leader and his faithful heir apparent. May God guard them from all that is unpleasant."

In reply to another question on the new residence law in Kuwait, the interior minister said: "You know that the residence law was laid down in the fifties and many changes have occurred that were not accounted for by the law. It was not envisioned that Kuwait would be as spacious [ar ittisa'] and prosperous as it is now with such a huge immigrant labor force."

He added: "In the past we used to deal with new developments by issuing ministerial orders, but now the time has come to organize all that is facing us and organize them through legal channels. Hence, the amiri decree was issued to organize some new develcpments legally and lay down ways of dealing with new matters."

Foreign Ministry Source on Al-'Usaymi-Solarz Talks

LD201156 Kuwait KUNA in English 1041 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 20 (KUNA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'd Muhammad al-'Usaymi Thursday conferred with American Congressman Stephen Solarz and the accompanying delegation.

A Foreign Ministry responsible source told KUNA that the two sides' discussions tackled the situation in the region, Iran-Iraq war developments and their dangerous reflections on the Gulf in particular and on the world in general.

The source added that they also discussed ways of ending this war, in addition to Kuwait-American relations, the Middle East problem and the possibility of convening an international Mid-East peace conference.

He described the Kuwait-American talks as 'very frank.'

Solarz arrived here earlier in the day on a two-day visit within an exploratory tour to a number of countries in the region.

AL-ANBA' Regrets USSR 'Reserved Attitude' in Gulf

JN231119 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Aug 87 p 1

['Abdallah Ahmad Husayn article: "With the Russian Stand Also"]

[Text] Moscow is maintaining a reserved attitude toward any action by any side against Iranian agression in the Arab Gulf. While we understand the gravity of U.S. stands toward the Arabs, we are also astonished by the Russian stands, which do not seem to be much concerned about what is taking place in the Gulf.

Day by day the USSR is getting closer to Iran, whose regime is determined to plant mines in the Gulf, create disasters in Arab countries, and rekindle the fire of racism and sectarianism everywhere!

The USSR, which has concluded important agreements with Iran and has appeased its regime at a time when its savageness has reached unbearable limits, is now placing itself in the position of being almost a friend of that aggressive state. Of course, we do not welcome Western of Eastern fleets, but we also wonder: Where is the Soviet pressure against the crimes that are being committed in the Arab Gulf and that are taking place daily on our lands, regional Arab waters, international waters, and even in our holy places while Muslims are performing the pilgrimage?

There is nothing better than defending ourselves with our own weapons. However, we are paralyzed by our differences and disputes and also by our own foolishness and the foolishness of others. We are helpless before a rancorous and racist historic enemy who has been hostile to our Arabism and Islam for centuries. We regret that our friends have abandoned us and sacrificed justice and friendship in order to become the allies of those who were and still are riding the U.S. bandwagon!

Indeed, we do not welcome foreign fleets. However, we are not also pleased at all to see the superpowers losing their credibility, fighting over influence in the Gulf, and giving a free hand to highwaymen and pirates.

We never thought that the friendlsy USSR, which had maintained just, humane, and honorable stands toward the Arabs in their war with the Zionist enemy — we never thought that this big friend would get closer to Iran simply to spite the United States, which has previously sponsored that state and provided it with arms and expertise.

OMAN

State Minister Makes Statement, Leaves for Tunis

JN231018 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0835 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Muscat, 23 Aug (WAKH) — Yusuf ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Muscat for Tunis today to lead his country's delegation to the emergency Arab foreign ministers' meeting which will be held at the Arab League headquarters later today.

In a predeparture statement, 'Abdallah said the Arab foreign ministers' meeting is an emergency meeting called for by the Tunisian Republic to discuss the situation in the Arab Gulf.

Asked about the GCC countries' position toward the UN Security Council resolution on the Iraq-Iran war, he said: The UN Security Council resolution concerns the United Nations in the first place. He expressed his belief that no new initiative on the Iraq-Iran war is under way and that the Arab foreign ministers will concentrate efforts, during this meeting, on the means to bolster international efforts intended to solve the region's crisis, including the Iraq-Iran war.

Referring to the situation in the Gulf in light of the dispatch of minewsweepers to the region, he said the announced aim of dispatching these minesweepers belonging to Western countries is to protect navigation from the danger of mines. He added that if the minewsweeping operations continue in the Gulf, we believe the international community will realize the need to reach suitable solutions so as to attain stability and security in this sensitive region.

PDRY

Iranian Presidential Envoy Meets With Leaders

Hands Velayati Message to Al-Dali

EA211922 Aden ANA in Arabic 1310 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Aden, 21 Aug (ANA) — Comrade Dr 'Abd Al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, has received a message from his brother, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, on bilateral relations and the latest developments in (?the region). The message was handed over when Dr al-Dali met Brother Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of political affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, this morning. [passage omitted]

Meets With Al-'Attas

NC230702 Tehran Domestic Service in Perisan 0330 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, special presidential emissary Mr Lavasani, deputed by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamane'i, met with PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas in Aden yesterday. During the meeting, Mr Lavasani handed over a message to him from President Khamene'i. The PDRY president referred to the need for both countries to cooperate and coordinate in international circles. Regarding the presence of U.S. and foreign forces in the region, the PDRY president said: We favor the departure of all foreign forces from the region. We condemn the U.S. presence as dangerous for the region's peace and security. He lauded the Islamic Muslim nation's resistance in the face of the imperialist forces.

According to this report, Mr Lavasani, our country's Foreign Ministry's director general for political affairs, said at the meeting: In our capacity as a revolutionary Islamic country of the Third World, we will muster all resources for our defense and for

combating all foreign aggressive forces, especially the United States.

Comments on UN Resolution

LD231110 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — An Iranian Foreign Ministry official Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani handed over a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to his counterpart of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, in Aden Saturday.

Lavasani, director general for political affairs, discussed regional issues as well as bilateral relations during his 90 minutes talks with the PDRY president.

Referring to the U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf, Lavasani called on regional states to unitedly demand an end to U.S. military presence and escalation of tension in the region.

Naturally, Lavasani stressed, Iran as an Islamic and a revolutionary country in the Third World would employ all its facilities at its disposal to defend itself vis-a-vis any foreign aggressor, especially the U.S.

On the Iraqi imposed war, Lavasani said the Baghdad regime was the representative of imperialism in the region. Therefore, he added, to put an end to imperialist domination of the region, the aggressor Iraqi regime should be removed from the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, he said, until realization of its legitimate rights would fight off aggression and the aggressors.

Referring to the U.N. Security Council resolution on the Iraq-Iran war, Lavasani said that the Council had so far failed in taking any positive step towards interests of the Third World.

Meanwhile, President al-'Attas said that his country called for the withdrawal of all foreign powers from the region. He stressed that U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf was condemned as provocative, threatening regional peace and security.

The PDRY president called for further expansion of Tehran-Aden bilateral relations.

In a separate meeting with PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali Friday, Lavasani said that Iranian people would continue their resistance vis-a-vis aggression, adding that the Iraqi regime was doomed to fail.

Lavasani said that superpower intervention in the region, following the treacherous invitation by Kuwait, could not solve Kuwait's problems.

He said that Iran appreciated PDRY's stance in condemning U.S. presence and mine laying in the Persian Gulf.

Referring to the Security Council resolution, Lavasani said that Iran would not accept any decision of the Council which was not in line with its legitimate rights.

But, he stressed, Iran would give a positive response to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's measures because of his positive stand in connection to the war of cities and deployment of chemical weapons.

DRA Envoy Hands Over Najib Message to Al-'Attas

EA211742 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Excerpt] At noon today Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, had a meeting at his office with Comrade Sarwar Yuresh, member of the PDPA Central Committee, who conveyed to Brother al-'Attas an official message from DRA President Najib.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two friendly countries and the possibilities for their development in a manner that serves the interests of the two friendly peoples. Brother al-'Attas emphasized the importance of developing bilateral relations in numerous fields in a manner that accords with their common desire and [word indistinct] the aims of the Yemeni and Afghan revolutions in their joint struggle.

He renewed our country's solidarity with the Afghan people's struggle to preserve (?their) sovereignty and revolutionary gains as well as to oppose imperialist and reactionary conspiracies in order to achieve more in various fields for the Afghan people and to preserve their national unity.

For his part, Comrade Sarwar Yuresh expressed his pleasure in visiting Democratic Yemen and holding discussions with officials. He pointed out that he had acquainted himself with efforts made to overcome the effects of the 13 January conspiracy and the achievements scored by our country, under YSP leadership, in various spheres, including culture and information.

He confirmed his country's willingness to develop cooperation with Democratic Yemen and expressed Afghanistan's appreciation for and pride in its relationship with our country.

Brother al-'Attas conveyed his comradely greetings to the Afghan president. [passage omitted]

Departs for Home 21 Aug

EA212018 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Comrade Sarwar Yuresh, member of the PDPA Central Committee, minister of state, and chairman of the State Committee for Information, left Aden at dawn today at the end of a visit to Democratic Yemen that lasted several days. [passage omitted]

During his visit, Comrade Sarwar Yuresh conveyed a message to Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, from his Afghan counterpart.

YSP CC Secretary Views Gulf Problems, Other Issues

EA211155 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] At noon today Brother Salim Muhammad, YSP assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee, met a delegation from the magazine *Problemy Mira i Sotsializma* led by Comrade (Ramona Rodnald), of the Political Bureau of the People's Progressive Party in Guyana, and including Andrey (Ormiyskiy), representative of the CPSU, and Salim Sa'id, representative of the Jordanian Communist Party.

During the meeting, the brother assistant secretary general welcomed the delegation to our country. During his discussions with them, he referred to the tasks entrusted to the party in light of the results of the general party conference. These include reinforcement of party discipline among all cadres, a deeper comprehension of its documents, the development of members' knowledge through the theory of scientific socialism, the improvement of class structure and the strengthening of the role of grassroots organizations that shoulder large tasks in implementing party policy in work and production sectors.

He referred to the continuing preparations for the party elections, which will be held at the end of this year and which affect the grassroots level through party committees in the governorates. These will give party members new tasks in light of the party's documents and the results of the general party conference.

The brother assistant secretary general praised the close, militant ties that bind the YSP and the world revolutionary movement, especially the communist parties in the countries of the socialist camp, led by the Soviet Union.

He explained the brotherly efforts made by the leadership of the two parts to create a suitable climate for achieving Yemeni unity on a peaceful and democratic basis. He expressed Democratic Yemen's eagerness for the establishment of security and stability in the area.

He condemned the imperialist military presence in the Arab Gulf area and near the shores of Democratic Yemen, and denounced the joint military maneuvers involving some countries of the area. He pointed out that the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and the failure to reach a peaceful and quick solution to the contentious issues were liable to create a suitable climate for the expansionist ambitions of imperialism. He said it jeorpardized security and peace in the area. For its part, the delegation from the magazine *Problemy Mira i Sotsializma* praised the achievements of Democratic Yemen in various fields and the role it plays in supporting the cause of peace and socialism.

SAUDIA ARABIA

Source Denies Facilities for U.S. Aircraft

LD222133 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Aug (SPA) — Commenting on what *The Washington Post* has published, which quoted what it called U.S. diplomatic sources on the provision of Saudi facilities for U.S. aircraft, a responsible source has stated to SPA that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has denied such reports more than once....[as received]

Foreign Minister Departs for Arab League Meeting

LD220950 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 22 Aug (SPA) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Jeddah this morning for Tunisia at the head of the Kingdom's delegation to the extraordinary meeting of the Arab League, which is to be held at the foreign ministerial level.

The delegation consists of Isma'il al-Shawri, foreign ministry assistant under secretary for political affairs; Hamad ibn Muhammad al-Farisi, minister plenipotentiary at the Foreign Ministry; Tahir Radwan, the Kingdom's delegate to the Arab League; Ibrahim al-Sa'ud Ibrahim, the Kingdom's ambassador to Tunisia; and Majid Barazanji, head of the Arab League Desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Defense Minister To Visit Algeria, Morocco

LD221306 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] At the invitation of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, will pay an official visit to fraternal Algeria on 25 August 1987. His highness will be accompanied by a high-ranking military delegation. May he travel safely.

At the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, will pay an official visit to fraternal Morocco at the head of a high-ranking Saudi military delegation on 31 August 1987. May God protect him.

Saudi Security Chief Describes Mecca Events

LD211046 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2044 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 20 Aug (SPA) — General 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shaykh, director of public security, said that the security forces had been extremely firm, courageous, calm, and deeply conscious of their responsibilities regarding the missions entrusted to them.

The director of public security, who appeared this evening on Saudi television to give a more comprehensive picture of the events which were staged by the Iranian pilgrims during the evening of 31 July 1987, explained that a critical situation developed during the attempt to push back the Iranians. This was the infiltration of thousands among them through a side road of the Al-Kharyq car park, in holy Mecca, in an attempt to rally round the security forces and surround them with the aim of neutralizing them in order to clear the road to the holy shrine,

which was the target of the demonstration, and in order to frighten the Muslims and harm them.

Gen 'Abdallah al-Shaykh explained that following this, orders were given to the security forces to retreat quickly, pointing out that this had been wrongly interpreted by some of those who saw previous film footage.

The director of public security stressed that the security forces gained full control over the demonstration and pushed it back in an admirable way. He said if that were not the case the situation would not have been resolved within 30 minutes, which is a record time for similar circumstances, and they would have continued their demonstration and then entered the holy mosque. The victims would have numbered tens of thousands in view of the fact that the holy mosque was crowded in readiness for the sunset prayer that day. The number of Muslims inside the holy mosque at that time was estimated at more than 700,000.

Gen. 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shaykh described the results of these incidents as regrettable and said: These disgraceful practices were a continuation and stepping up of acts, contrary to pilgrimage rites, perpetrated by Iranian pilgrims in the past years, in addition to being a threat to the security of citizens, and their misunderstanding of the tolerance of the state, headed by the custodian of the two holy mosques. This made them imagine that under the umbrella of this generous tolerance they could perpetrate wickedness and destruction.

The director of public security pointed out that this was obvious when their huge and noisy demonstration came closer to the holy mosque. He said: The demonstration closed all the streets leading to the holy mosque, and orders were given to the Iranians, by their leaders and guides, to penetrate the ranks of the security forces and to move the demonstration and the placards they were carrying into the holy mosque. Their leaders repeated the order not to retreat. The documentary relayed by Saudi television, on its first channel, after the address by Gen al-Shaykh, has shown clearly what was pointed out by the director of public security in his address prior to the documentary, in addition to other details seen by the viewers this evening for the first time, which condemn the rulers of Tehran and prove their evil intentions toward the holy mosque, the pilgrims, the Saudi security authorities, and Saudi citizens.

The director of public security added: They then started to assault the security forces, pilgrims, and citizens. Then the security forces repelled them, and the retreat of the Iranians continued toward the multistory car park, in Al-Khrayq, where, on its eastern side, a large number of Iranians tried to go around and return behind the security forces.

Gen al-Shaykh added: "The citizens and security forces noticed this attempt to regroup and orders were issued to the forces to retreat quickly to a place near the central post and telephone building. It had previously been determined that no persons would be allowed to go beyond that point to the holy shrine, whatever the sacrifices. The security forces were able to stop and disperse them at that point.

At the end of his statement, he expressed the hope that God will bless this country with eternal security and stability. Here follows the text of the statement of Gen 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shaykh, director of public security:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of messengers. Brother viewers, peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. Based on the Interior Ministry's concern at providing a more comprehensive picture of the incidents caused by Iranian pilgrims on the evening of Friday July 1987 and the regrettable results of these incidents. [sentence as received] These disgraceful practices were a continuation and intensification of acts contrary to the pilgrimage rite which had been displayed by them in past years. In addition, they posed threats to the security of citizens and pilgrims and misunderstood the tolerance of the state, headed by the custodian of the two holy mosques, which was determined to prevent the dire consequences that might result from such practices. This misunderstanding led them to imagine they could perpetrate wickedness and destruction; their huge and tumultuous demonstration approached the holy mosque and all roads leading to it were thereby blocked.

Orders were given to the Iranians by their leaders and those directing them to storm the ranks of security men and enter the holy mosque along with the pictures they were carrying. Their leaders repeated an order to them to not retreat, and it was at that point that their assault on security men and pilgrims began. The security men then began to react to hold them off.

The Iranians began retreating until they reached the multilevel parking garage in Al-Kharyq where a large number of them attempted to go around the eastern side and approach the security forces from behind. The citizens and the security forces were alert to this attempt and orders were issued to the forces to retreat quickly to near the central post office, the point which was previously determined not to be crossed to the holy mosque, whatever the sacrifices might be. The security forces were able to repeal and disperse them there.

Now I would like to shed some light on some issues which some people misunderstood and which were the subject of arguments and erroneous interpretations:

First, it must be clear that the security forces made an honorable stand, with great firmness, courage, and bravery. They well understood their responsibilities toward their mission.

Second, [the security forces] kept the demonstration under complete control and pushed it backward in an admirable way.

Third, a critical development occurred while the Iranians were being pushed back, when thousands of them tried to infiltrate through the side road of the car park at Al-Kharyq in an attempt to rally round the security forces, surround them, and neutralize them in order to clear the road to the holy shrine, which was the target of this demonstration. They also sought to frighten the Muslims and harm them.

Orders were given to the security forces to retreat quickly to foil this attempt. This was wrongly interpreted by some who saw the previous film.

Fourth, had it not been so, the situation would not have been resolved within 30 minutes, which is a record time for similar cases. They would have continued their demonstration, then entered the holy shrine, and there would have been thousands of victims because of the overcrowding of the holy shrine in readiness for the sunset prayer that day. The number of Muslims inside the holy mosque at that time was estimated at more than 700,000 Muslims.

The film that is to be projected now will show all that I said, in addition of some other details, and I ask Almighty God to give the blessing of eternal security and stability for this country. He is capable of everything. Peace and God's blessings and mercy be upon you.

After the director of public security concluded his explanatory statement, Saudi television carried documentary shots of great importance showing how the Iranian demogogic march began on Friday, how it ended, and its consequences, in a more detailed, thorough, and objective way than previously. [passage omitted]

What the Saudi security officer said was a brief introduction on Mecca, the achievements there, and pilgrimage plans. But what did happen after that? The Saudi security officer summarized what happened in the following way: The gathering of Iranian pilgrims who had come from their places of residence in districts of Mecca, whose number was estimated at between 60,000-70,000 and who were directed by the so-called representative and his assistants in addition to elements of the so-called revolutionary guards to implement plans previously drawn in Tehran, led to the following:

First, the so-called representative and his assistants incited the groups of Iranian pilgrims to chant slogans and to carry photographs and political slogans, in addition to using the women and the men, to distribute leaflets. These leaflets were confiscated in previous years when they crossed the borders by land or air. Therefore, the Iranians resorted to another trick; they brought in specialized groups, under the guise of pilgrims — Iranians who know a number of languages, including Arabic — to write the placards and political slogans, in addition to writing leaflets in Arabic. Then they give these to their pilgrims to distribute and told the Iranian pilgrims that this is part of the pilgrimage duties.

Second, the elements called Revolution Guards arranged and monitored the Iranian masses, and therefore led them and incited them to chant and block the streets by erecting human barriebs. They also carried microphones so that the Iranian pilgrims could repeat the chantings and also in order to direct the noisy Iranian masses to the road to the holy mosque.

Another shot was shown then where the Iranian pilgrims' delegate held a microphone and started addressing the Iranian pilgrims in a loud voice saying: The political duties of pilgrimage should be performed during the pilgrimage days in the form of longer demonstrations and marches with more splendor.

The pilgrims' delegate then began to incite the pilgrims to demonstrate and said: Pilgrims should participate in these rituals in full coordination with the pilgrimage officials and the delegates of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi. [passage omitted]

A Saudi security officer then appeared to explain the consequences of the demogogic gatherings of Iranian pilgrims in the following way:

First, traffic was halted and passengers were trapped inside their cars for many hours;

Second, other pilgrims were delayed in performing their rites and citizens were delayed in attending to their business generally;

Third, when the Iranian pilgrims moved toward the holy mosque they collided with the pilgrims who were coming out of the holy mosque. This lead to the citizens and pilgrims becoming excited when the Iranian pilgrims started throwing stones and bits of wood and metal, and finally pulling out knives hidden under their clothes and using them against citizens and other pilgrims. Then viewers of this important television documentary heard the voice of an Iranian official inciting the Iranian pilgrims to storm the holy mosque. He told them: Brothers, let us go in the direction of the holy mosque and do not be dissuaded.

A Saudi security officer gave details of the incidents perpetrated by the Iranian regime. He said: We were suprised to see the so-called Revolutionary Guards showing their hands in a united movement. Instead of walking normally, they started a quick march, engaging the forces, until they reached the region where the security forces were blocking the entrance to the holy mosque. Therefore we were obliged to force them onward. The forces stationed at that position quite effectively contributed to gradually pushing them into the middle of Al-Kharayq Street which is parallel to the parking lot, the Saudi security official added as he explained the situation on a map of Mecca. We were also suprised that a large group of them took the back road.

The information given by cooperative citizens was that they took the back road to an area behind the parking lot. They lit fires in the lot and smashed many cars parked on that side, and assaulted the military members of the supporting Civil Defense units.

The Saudi security official added: We withdrew our forces again to Al-Kharayq Square in Mecca. This was because the square is large enough for a maneuver to absorb all the problems they may create, then to return again to this specific area. We absorbed all the existing momentum and contributed to that by pushing a group of them to the Al-Sulaymaniyah tunnels.

Naturally, at the same time we reduced the burden on the force that was there by pulling the Iranians toward Ray' al-Hajjun hill.

The Saudi security official added: This measure helped to ease the pressure on the forces there. A large group of Iranians rushed to Ray' al-Hajjun in flight to the west Mecca area. They were extremely interested in this particular area because they had ignored all other routes and concentrated on Al-Mu'alla Street as a means of getting to Al-Ghazzah and thence to the holy mosque.

The Saudi security officer then went on to describe the valor of the Saudi security forces in checking the Iranian aggressions. He said that they totally prevented the Iranians from entering the holy mosque. Not one single Iranian could infiltrate at all through that region, because all the forces and men present at that position lived up to the responsibility entrusted to them. The entire operation lasted half an hour exactly and we were able to control all positions within that period. The forces remained in their places for a considerable time to protect the safety of the pilgrims and citizens, and to facilitate traffic which had been interrupted for 4-6 hours. Thus the citizens, thanks be to God and thanks to the efforts of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, succeeded in reaching their destinations in upper Mecca and the other regions.

These were the anarchist demagogic actions committed by the Iranian regime against the Muslim Qibla and the center of the love of their hearts. They sought to prevent Muslims from reaching the holy mosque, brought fighting into a secure country, frightened the peaceful citizens, assaulted the Saudi security men who, after God Almighty, have been protecting the pilgrims, and also assaulted the innocent citizens and pilgrims.

A Tunisian pilgrim has said: Jerusalem...we are with Palestine... the Al-Aqsa mosque which was occupied by the Jews. We do not want those who seek to sabotage the house of God.

These Iranian subversive actions in Mecca have a conclusion which we must state: God Almighty has stated in his holy book: There is the type of man whose speech about this world's life may dazzle you, and he calls God to witness what is in his heart, yet he is the most contentious of enemies. [quotation from the Koran]

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Official Reaffirms Territorial Waters Mine Free

JN220834 Doha QNA in Arabic 0735 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Al-Fujayrah, 22 Aug (QNA) — A UAE Coast Guard and border official has reaffirmed that the country's waters off Al-Fujayrah and Khawr Fakkan are mine free. He denied the reported discovery of further mines in UAE territorial waters.

In a statement today the official said a 3-day search and survey by Armed Forces and Coast Guard patrols revealed that the territorial waters are completely free of mines and that navigation to the country's eastern ports is proceeding normally.

Meanwhile, this morning a diving team resumed the search for the bodies of five crew members whose supply ship *Anita* sank off Al-Fujayrah last week after hitting a sea mine. Yesterday divers retrieved the bodies of Gerald Blackburn, the British captain of the vessel, and 'Abd al- Rahim Nazir Husayn, an Indian crew member. A spokesman for the Al-Khalij Company, owner of the vessel, said the corpses were taken to the Al-Fujayrah hospital in case their relatives claim them.

General Command Announces Naval Firing Exercises

JN210838 Doha QNA in Arabic 0742 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Aug (QNA) — The UAE Armed Forces General Command has said that as of the day after tomorrow, Sunday, UAE naval forces will conduct firing exercises in UAE territorial waters in the area between Ra's Ghanadah northward, Ra's Hanjurah southward, and Sir Abu Nu'ayr eastward.

A statement issued by the UAE Armed Forces Moral Guidance and Public Relations Directorate explained that these naval firing exercises will be conducted on 2, 24, 30, and 31 August, and also on 6, 7, 20, 21, 27, and 28 September. The statement, published here today, warned merchant ships, fishing boats, and helicopters against being present in this area, which is known to fisherman as Abu Khars, from 1000 to 1800 daily local UAE time on the days of the firing exercises.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

People's Congress Delegation Leaves for PRC

JN221248 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] A General People's Congress delegation led by Brother 'Abd al-Salam Sabra, member of the Standing Committee, left for Beijing today on a visit to the PRC that is scheduled to last several days. In a statement to *Saba' News Agency*, Brother Sabra explained that the visit falls within the framework of bolstering relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. It also falls within the framework of affirming the resolutions of the Third General People's Congress' session aimed at promoting our country's relations with all fraternal, friendly countries in all spheres, and with the various regional and international organizations through active participation. The resolutions are also aimed at explaining our country's viewpoint on several Arab, Islamic, and international issues and at championing the national liberation causes and the right of nations to self-determination, and opposing all forms of racism.

Concluding his statement, 'Abd al-Salam Sabra indicated that the delegation will explain the General People's Congress' experiment to its Chinese friends and will learn of their political experience with the aim of reaching an understanding on the possibility of cooperation between the General People's Congress and the Chinese Communist Party.

The delegation was seen off by Brother Muhammad Sahir, member of the Standing Committee, and the PRC ambassador in Sanaa.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves For Arab League Council Meeting

JN221948 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Tunis this evening at the head of the Iraqi delegation to the emergency session of the Arab League Council to be begin tomorrow, Sunday. Current developments in the Arab Gulf region will be discussed. The delegation includes the Foreign Ministry under secretary and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Spokesman Denies Warplane Downed 22 Aug

JN221950 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1938 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA) — Iraq has denied an Iranian allegation that an Iraqi plane was downed today. A short while ago, an Iraqi military spokesman told INA that all the Iraqi planes, which had performed their duties, returned safely to their bases.

Forty Iraqi planes raided a petrochemical complex in southern Iran today, setting it aflame. The Iraqi planes returned safely to their bases.

Military Spokesman Denies Helicopter Downed 21 Aug

JN230701 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0618 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA) — Iraq has refuted Iranian claims about downing an Iraqi helicopter gunship the day before yesterday. In a statement to INA this morning, an Iraqi military spokesman affirmed that the Iranian claims are untrue as none of our helicopter gunships was downed.

He explained that all 40 Iraqi fighter bombers which simultaneously raided the petrochemical complex, as well as all other fighter bombers which carried out operations in the sectors of operations, have returned safely to base.

Further Reportage on Gulf War Operations

Communique No 2,788

JN211643 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,788 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant forces inflicted further losses on the aggressors, the agents of Zionism, through their combat activities last night and today. The following is a roundup of these activities:

1. Our valiant hawks continued to deal strong blows to the enemy, destroying vital installations deep inside its territory and inflicting death on its personnel and destruction on its weapons and equipment along the battlefronts. After carrying out 67 combat missions, our hawks returned safely to base with their planes protected by God.

2. Our helicopter gunships carried out 46 combat missions today, inflicting important losses on the Khomeyniites in personnel, weapons, and equipment. Our pilots returned safely to base protected by God.

3. Three enemy soldiers were killed, an infantry position was destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. An enemy soldier was killed and an ammunition dump was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. An infantry position was destroyed and its personnel killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah fired on enemy engineering works, halted them, and destroyed an ammunition dump.

7. An enemy soldier was killed when an ammunition dump was blown up in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces, and a (GC) rifle was found in the II Army Corps central sector.

8. The scoundrel Khomeyniites shelled the Bimalik housing complex in Qal'at Dizah with long-range artillery. As a result, four civilians, including a child, were martyred; four others, including a child and a woman, were wounded; and several houses were damaged. May God have mercy on our martyrs and grant swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 Aug 1987

Communique No 2,789

JN221200 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1128 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,789 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 August 1987]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Today we will prove to the tyrannical clique that they are no match for Iraq in terms of strength, means, perseverance, and patience. Today we will show them what we can do in order to make them realize their destiny if they face the immense resources of superior Iraq.

At 1300 [0900 GMT] today, 40 fighter bombers simultaneously took to the the air, traversing distances deep inside enemy territory toward their set target, the large and very important petrochemical complex in Bandar-e Khomeyni port in the southern part of Iraq. This complex has cost the regime of charlatans billions of dollars. While they were on their way to the target, the noble hawks of the air penetrated the enemy's air defenses, including the missile batteries that were supplied to them by world Zionism and the other enemies of the Arab nation. Our hawks pounced on them, turning them into rubble. They then continued on their course toward their targets in the com-

plex, covering it with a cloud of missiles and bullets. After leaving the complex shrouded with columns of smoke and fire covering a large area, they thanked God for this victory and safely returned to the homeland, bringing glad tidings of victory to the loyal people and to their great leader.

O, senile Khomeyni and your clique of charlatans! This is how battles should be waged and this is how strength must be used. One can only take pride in such a show of force. As for sending one or two aircraft to strike at a house where a family lives or a kindergarten in a remote village, by God, it is an act which only cowards would carry out. Man's actions are a mirror of his character.

May God bless you men of our heroic Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. By God, you have proved to be the real fighters who determinedly defend the beloved homeland. You have made the enemies taste the bitterness of defeat. May God bless the people, our great and triumphant leader, and our Armed Forces. We thank God who supports the faithful.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 August 1987

Communique No 2,790

JN221703 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,790 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 August 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces are continuing their glorious defense of the homeland of freedom, the homes of dignity, and the revolution of honor and honest livelihood. The following is a roundup of our forces' activities for last night and today:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Forces today carried out 67 combat missions, performing their duties to strike at the enemy's vital installations. They also wiped out many enemy troop concentrations, gun emplacements, and equipment in the operational sectors. Our planes returned safely to their bases, God be praised.

2. Our brave helicopter gunships carried out 48 combat missions in the operational theaters, inflicting important losses on the aggressors. Our helicopters returned safely to their bases with God's protection and care.

3. Four enemy vehicles, one 60-mm mortar, one medium machinegun, two infantry positions, and two ammunition dumps were destroyed and one shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. Three scoundrels were killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and several fires were started in enemy positions in the in the VII Army Corps front.

5. One of the enemy personnel was killed, three others were wounded, one machinegun emplacement and one observation post were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. Whenever it finds itself surrounded by its problems and whenever we repulse and defeat it, the Iranian regime strikes at purely residential areas in our border cities and villages with long-range artillery or sends one of its planes to raid a remote village. As usual, two enemy warplanes attacked a residential area in the Sumayyil area in the Dahuk Governorate at 0805 [0405 GMT] today. The shelling martyred 12 citizens, including 8 children and 2 women, and wounded 23 citizens, including 4 women and 15 children. At 0944 today, one enemy plane raided a village in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, wounding three citizens, including one woman. At 1053 today, one enemy plane attacked a village in the Al-Majir District in the Maysan Governorate. The attack martyred 1 citizen and wounded 11 others, including 1 woman.

The criminal enemy also shelled residential areas in the Al-Basrah Governorate with long-range artillery, martyring three citizens and wounding five others. The shelling destroyed a number of houses and shops in these areas.

We remind these scoundrel Khomeyniites of those days when they were hiding themselves day and night, fearing great Iraq's attacks. May God grant paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded.

[Signed] the Armed Forces General Command, 22 August 1987

Residential Areas Shelled

JN231140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1102 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA) — The rulers of Iran have continued to shell the residentials areas in the Basra city center of southern Iraq, martyring a number of citizens and injuring others, in addition to damaging their properties.

The residential districts of the city were subjected to Iranian long-range artillery shelling at 2200 last night. Basra was also subjected to similar artillery shelling yesterday.

Meanwhile, four Iranian planes bombed two villages in Al-Sulaymaniyah and Sumayyil in Dahuk, northern Iraq, as well as residential areas in the Al-Majir district of Maysan Governorate.

The outcome of the Iranian military attacks on these Iraqi civilian areas was the martyrdom of 16 civilians, including a number of children, and the wounding of others, among them a number of women. This is in addition to the damage inflicted on civilian property.

It is noteworthy that Arab and foreign heads of diplomatic missions and correspondents have been acquainted with the effects of the Iranian attacks on Iraqi residential areas during a tour of residential areas in Sumayyil, Dahuk Governorate.

They also visited wounded civilians at the general hospital in Dahuk, northern Iraq, who were injured as a result of the bombing by the Iranian planes.

Communique No 2,791

JN230950 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0920 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,791 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 August 1987]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At 1128 [0728 GMT] today, 36 planes took off simultaneously from their bases, all heading for the extremely important petrochemical complex in Bandar-e Khomeyni to attack it for the second time in 24 hours.

After defying the enemy air defenses and destroying two surface-to-air missile batteries, our brave, skillful hawks arrived at their set targets at the complex.

They rained bombs down on them, exacerbating yesterday's fires, and adding further destruction to the targets.

After ensuring that they had carried out their missions perfectly, all our hawks returned with their planes to the homeland, proud of what they had accomplished. [passage omitted]

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 August 1987

Tabriz Power Station Bombed

JN231602 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1535 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Statement by the Iraqi military spokesman dated 23 August 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Further to our Communique No 2,791, issued this afternoon, our heroic Air Force has continued its valiant activities on the path toward the great victory, destroying the pillars of aggression by striking at vital installations of the regime of the criminal charlatans. To punish this regime for its continuing aggression against our people and its constant rejection of the call for peace, the following was achieved this afternoon:

1. At 1500 [1100 GMT] today, a number of our aircraft penetrated deep inside Iran to deliver a destructive blow to the power station east of Tabriz in the northern most part of Iran.

2. At 1710 today, another group of our aircraft delivered a destructive blow to the Do Rud cement factory in central Iran. After dealing accurate and destructive blows to these targets, all our valiant hawks returned safely with their planes to the homeland, adding a new victory to the great ones they achieved yesterday and this morning.

Congratulations to our Air Force men — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks — for their efforts and struggle.

May God redeem them for their good deeds.

[Dated] 23 August 1987

Communique No 2,792

JN231648 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,792 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 August 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The people's Armed Forces are continuing to carry out their heroic struggle to ward off harm and aggression from the land of freedom and progress, Iraq, the land of plenty. The following is a roundup of our forces' activities for last night and today:

1. Further to our Communique No 2,791 issued this afternoon, our heroic Air Force has continued its valiant activities on the path toward the great victory, destroying the pillars of aggression by striking at vital installations of the regime of the criminal charlatans. To punish this regime for its continuing aggression against our people and its constant rejection of the call for peace, the following was acheived this afternoon:

A. At 1500 [1100 GMT] today, a number of our aircraft penetrated deep inside Iranian territory to deliver a destructive blow to the power station east of Tabriz in the northernmost part of Iran.

B. At 1710 today, another group of our aircraft delivered a destructive blow to the Do Rud cement factory in central Iran.

C. Our aircraft carried out devastating raids throughout today against enemy personnel concentrations, weapon emplacements, and equipment in the operational theaters, inflicting important losses on the enemy. After carrying out 135 combat missions and all their tasks, our aircraft returned safely and triumphantly to the homeland in God's care and protection. Congratulations to our Air Force men — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks — for their efforts and struggle. May God redeem them for their good deeds.

2. The heroic cavaliers of the helicopter gunships today fulfilled their heroic tasks in annihilating a number of enemy personnel, positions, weapons, and equipment through 62 combat missions. After carrying out these missions, the valiant cavaliers returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

3. Four infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed, two vehicles were burned, and one ammunition dump was destroyed in the 1 Army Corps northern sector. Elsewhere in the same sector, one of our patrols found one Kalashnikov rifle and one radio.

4. Two infantry positions and one ammunition dump were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. One enemy observation post and one ammunition dump were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. One enemy soldier was killed in the Special 1 Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces sector. One ammunition dump was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

7. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. One infantry position was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. As is customary for the cowards, the Khomeyniite rascals shelled the residential areas in the valiant city of Basra with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling led to the martyrdom of 11 civilians, including 2 women, and the wounding of 47 other citizens, including 4 children and 3 women. The shelling also caused damage to a number of houses and civilian property. May God bestow upon our martyrs paradise and quick receovery for our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed forces General Command, 23 August 1987

Cabinet Not To Discuss Lavi Project 23 Aug

TA211834 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The Cabinet will not discuss the Lavi issue in its next session on Sunday. This was decided this morning by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that in the course of next week Shamir and Peres will try to arrive at a compromise proposal that will be acceptable to Defense Minister Rabin and Finance Minister Nisim. The prime minister and the vice prime minister believe that the final decision on the fate of the Lavi project will be made by the Cabinet within the next 10 days.

At this point, support for the Lavi in the Cabinet enjoys only a slim majority. Finance Minister Moshe Nisim today rejected all the new proposals for continuing the development and production of the aircraft. Minister Nisim made these remarks at the end of a meeting with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. [passage omitted]

Shamir, Peres Propose Later Model Lavi Be Developed

TA220849 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Peres are suggesting that Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] continue to develop the Lavi aircraft but not to manufacture the current model. Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein has learned that according to this proposal, work will continue to develop the Lavi so that it can serve as a fighter aircraft for the early 21st century. The money saved by this move will allow the Air Force to purchase F-16's, which it will require in the next few years, although money for the alternatives the IDF wants to procure has not yet been found.

Our correspondent says that Mr Shamir and Mr Peres will first seek the consent of Defense Minister Rabin to this proposal, and then try to ensure a Cabinet majority for it.

The Treasury has rejected this proposal, arguing that it cannot guarantee the production of alternatives for the IDF. The Finance Ministry also objects to Minister Moda'i's recommendation that money from revenue surpluses be used to finance the aircraft and the alternatives.

IAI Rejects Proposal

TA221535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] The chairman of the board of directors of Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] has said that IAI cannot accept a plan to freeze the production of the Lavi while continuing to develop a new aircraft that would skip over the plane's current generation. Mordekhay Hod told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that development without production would be a futile process in view of the fact that IAI is not a research but a manufacturing entity and research without production would serve no purpose.

Defense sources have said that IAI cannot go on developing an aircraft that has not been ordered by the Israeli Air Force and that does not suit its requirements or tactical doctrine.

A senior economic source has said that the development of a new Lavi aircraft without going into production would perpetuate the current problem. Israel would be forced to spend another $2 billion in the next 10 years without receiving any operational compensation in exchange.

These reactions came in the wake of the proposal raised by Prime Minister Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Peres. The two had discussed a plan whereby IAI would continue to develop the Lavi in order to make it the jet fighter of the early 2000's but it would not produce the current model. In their opinion, the funds that would be saved would allow the purchase of F-16's.

Shamir's Associates Deny Plan To Freeze Lavi

TA221624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Excerpt] This evening, associates of the prime minister denied the existence of a joint plan between the prime minister and the vice prime minister with regard to the Lavi aircraft. Mr Shamir's associates told our political correspondent that building a Lavi aircraft for the year 2000 was one of the ideas raised by Shim'on Peres during his meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday and that the prime minister is examining this as well as other ideas. In any event, the associates added, the prime minister has not yet embraced this plan. [passage omitted]

Peres Considering F-16 Joint Work as Lavi Option

TA230858 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by Avi Temkin and Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres, seeking a way out of the Cabinet deadlock over the Lavi jetfighter, has indicated that he might agree to scrap the project if the U.S. accepts extensive Israeli participation in the development of future aircraft, such as the next generation of F-16s.

Government sources last night said that this was only one of the options the vice premier was looking into. At present, however, Peres would still prefer continuing the Lavi project. But the deadlock in the Cabinet between the pro- and anti-Lavi camps has prompted him to look for alternatives.

The talks on the future of the Lavi have created tensions among Likud ministers. Relations between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Finance Minister Moshe Nisim have become greatly strained because of Nisim's firm opposition to the project, political sources say. Nisim has not been invited to a meeting to be held today between Shamir, Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The sources said that most of the options Peres is exploring are based on the continuation of the project. They said Peres is

convinced that Israel must stay within the group of countries developing aircraft because of the valuable technological spinoffs. Peres has also said he fears the country may lose many scientists, engineers and highly skilled workers if the Lavi is scrapped.

The Lavi issue is not expected to come up at today's weekly Cabinet session. [passage omitted]

Shamir Briefs Cabinet on Romania Visit
TA231034 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] A short while ago the Cabinet ended its weekly session without having dealt with the Lavi at all. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the prime minister reviewed his visit to Romania, while the defense minister reviewed the current security situation in the territories. Later the Cabinet devoted an hour to the exports issue. They heard a survey from the industry and trade minister and then held a discussion.

U.S. Urged To Grant Romania Special Status
TA231625 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] This afternoon Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed opposition to the sale of U.S. arms and planes to Saudi Arabia. Mr Shamir told Senator John Breaux of Louisiana that until the Arab countries start peace negotations with Israel, they should not be supplied with arms.

On another issue, our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Mr Shamir said that the United States should appreciate that Romania is the only communist country in which Jewish life is flourishing. In light of this fact, Shamir affirmed that Romania deserves to receive most-favored-nation status from the United States.

Delegation Visit to USSR Postponed by Soviets
TA211838 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] A delegation of senior representatives of the Labor Party, MAPAM, and the Citizens' Rights Movement, who were scheduled to leave for the Soviet Union next Monday as official guests of the CPSU, will not carry out their visit. Our Knesset correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports that Knesset Members 'Uzi Bar'am, El'azar Granot, Shulamit Aloni, Ora Namir, and Hayim Ramon were notified a short time ago that due to organizational difficulties their hosts are compelled to put off the delegation's arrival in the Soviet Union. The Soviets explained that the postponement stems from difficulties in setting meetings between the Israeli visitors and high-level CPSU officials who are still enjoying their summer vacation. It is believed that if the visit is ultimately carried out, it will not take place before October.

Soviets Assure Shamir on Conference Conditions
TA240748 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 24 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] The following message was relayed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by a senior Soviet personality: Israel need not fear the participation of the Soviet Union in a peace conference and can quit the conference any time it wants if the Soviet Union takes what Israel would perceive as a one-sided and hostile position. This message was conveyed by U.S. Jewish figures following talks with a senior Soviet official.

The Soviets have recently stepped up their efforts to be included in an international conference. This issue will feature prominently in the meeting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will hold in New York next month. In his talk with the Jewish leaders, the Soviet official voiced his assessment that Syria may also be included in the political process. [passage omitted]

PRC Scientists Arrive for Biophysics Congress
TA230852 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Aug 87 p A6

[Report by Avraham Peled]

[Excerpt] A group of PRC scientists has arrived for a scientific congress in Israel.

The Chinese scientists will participate in the Ninth International Congress on Biophysics, which opened at the Giv'at Ram campus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

About 1,000 scientists, most of them guests from foreign countries including Taiwan, the USSR, and other Eastern bloc states, are participating in the congress.

Indian scientists who were slated to arrive for the congress had to cancel their participation at the last minute due to a ban by the Indian Government on their trip to Israel. [passage omitted]

Shamir's Office Reacts to 'Abd Al-Majid Statements
TA231127 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office has reacted to remarks by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to the effect that Egypt rejects Mr Shamir's ideas for alternatives to the international conference. The Prime Minister's Office says that when the Egyptians understand that the international conference idea is dead, it will then be possible to discuss new ideas. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that 'Abd al-Majid asserted that Egypt does not accept Mr Shamir's rejection of the international conference. Egypt likewise rejects the idea of resuming autonomy talks because Jordan is not committed to the Camp David accords.

U.S Instruction on Embassy 'Justifiable'

TA211140 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT Aug 87

[Text] The U.S. Defense Department has told the Israel Embassy in Washington that the offices of the Israel Military Industries and RAFAEL, the arms development authority, must move out of the building. Israeli sources in the capital say that the U.S. action affects all foreign embassies in Washington but is believed to be directed primarily against Israel. The sources added that the U.S. decision follows certain incidents in which Israelis were alleged to have transferred sensitive information from the United States. The Israel Embassy spokesman said that because the people involved were representatives of government bodies, the U.S. actions are justifiable.

Editorial Doubts Frayj Role as Shamir-PLO Middleman

TA211325 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 20 Aug 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Representation and the Right to Self-Determination Are Inseparable"]

[Text] The confirmation by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of his commitment to reject the international conference, following his talks with Ceausescu in Bucharest, removes all illusions that transpired in the minds of some Arab circles and which had deluded them into linking certain Arab visits with Shamir's trip to the Romanian capital.

If there are those who are trying to recreate the previous experiment of the Romanian role [in the Begin-Al-Sadat meeting], they should know that the circumstances now are different and the "personalities" of that period are not the "personalities" of today. Those who imagine that Ilyas Frayj could be the compromise formula between that of Shamir and the PLO are wrong, even if this formula were to be supported by more than the Arab states and were to enjoy the sympathy or indulgence of some Palestinian circles. This is because the existing problem is not in the "tactic" of Palestinian representation but in the content and aims of this representation.

The basic reason for the refusal by Washington, its allies, and its followers to recognize the PLO as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people is opposition by these parties to the Palestinian people's right of self-determination.

Hence, any attempt to exclude the PLO from Palestinian representation means at the same time to exclude the right to self-determination, as well as the complete withdrawal from Arab lands occupied since 1967. Consequently, this is an attempt rejected by the Palestinian people and is suspect in its motives and intentions.

UNIFIL Caught in SLA-'Terrorists' Cross Fire

TA211714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Two UNIFIL positions were hit today in exchanges of fire between the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and terrorists. There were no casualties among the UNIFIL soldiers. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the terrorists fired mortar shells at SLA positions. SLA troops then retaliated with tank fire. Two positions belonging to the Irish contingent sustained direct hits by a tank shell and three mortar shells. The positions were totally destroyed but, as has been noted, no one was hurt. Two women from the village of Sharubin were injured in the cross fire, and UNIFIL soldiers transferred them to the hospital in Tyre.

Al-Rifa'i Addresses Senate on Budget Supplement

JN201447 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has affirmed that henceforth the government will issue budget supplements only after obtaining legislative approval. He added that budget supplement bills will be promptly submitted to Parliament for study and approval so that the Ministry of Finance will be able to issue its final accounts on time.

Addressing a Senate session today chaired by Ahmad al-Lawzi, president of the Senate, and in the presence of Cabinet members, the prime minister said: If the Senate agrees to form a committee comprising the members of its Financial and Legal Committees in order to discuss the subject of budget supplements, it will be possible to convene a joint meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives to reach a common stand on this subject that we can all abide by.

The prime minister added: The supplement to the 1986 general budget law totals 141,399,000 dinars, about 15 percent of the total general budget for that year. This figure may seem large when compared with previous budget supplements. It may also raise questions about the significance of passing budget laws when large sums also have to be allocated in budget supplements. As this government is accustomed to being frank with your esteemed chamber on all matters concerning this country and its march, allow me to present to you the main contents of this supplement.

The prime minister said: A large proportion of the provisions of this bill are not new expenditures for 1986. They are rectifications of the constitutional and legal status of certain sums spent in previous years. They are also rectifications of the difficult financial conditions encountered by some of our establishments and corporations. These expenditures will have a positive effect on the general economic situation and on the financial condition of the establishments and companies involved. Moreover, in accordance with the guidelines prohibiting the recycling of allocations after 1986, the government has chosen to carry out these rectifications at one time and in one budget supplement, even if it involves large sums.

The prime minister added: Opinions may differ about our interpretation of certain provisions of the Constitution and the law, but there can never be any disagreement on the objective: to serve our precious country, ensure its higher interests, and preserve its sound constitutional process.

The prime minister said: The government is determined to entrench the concept of joint responsibility between it and the esteemed chamber. We are proud of the existing cooperation, thank God. We will continue to exert our maximum effort to preserve and promote this cooperation for the well-being of our precious country under the glorious Hashemite flag and the leadership of his majesty the king.

Later, there was a broad debate on the constitutionality of budget supplements, in which a number of senators participated. They affirmed their constitutionality with the cooperation of legislative and executive authorities, as the common denominator among the three authorities [as heard] is the Jordanian Constitution. They said: We are guided by the provisions, letter, and spirit of this Constitution.

The senators also affirmed that freedom of opinion and expression and the airing of different views are part of a healthy legislature.

Prime Minister Returns From Visit to Syria

JN221819 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to Amman today after a short working visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Al-Rifa'i met with President Hafiz al-Asad at the Presidential Palace at 1345 today. Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm attended the meeting that was later joined by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Relations and cooperation between Jordan and Syria and the current situation in the area were discussed during this meeting. Al-Rifa'i, Al-Kasm, and Al-Shar' then had lunch with President al-Asad.

Al-Rifa'i and Al-Kasm held a closed meeting following Al-Rifa'i's arrival in Damascus. A press spokesman for the Syrian Prime Ministry said that the current Arab situation, issues of mutual interest, and relations between the two fraternal countries were discussed during the 2-hour meeting. [passage omitted] On arrival in Amman, the prime minister was received by the deputy prime minister and ministers.

Omani Sultan's Envoy Departs Amman 19 Aug

JN191349 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Sayf ibn Hamad ibn Sa'ud, chief of Oman's Sultani Court, left Amman this morning after a short visit to Jordan. During his visit, he met with His Majesty King Husayn and conveyed to him a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus dealing with the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries. The situation in the Arab Gulf and developments in the Iraq-Iran war,as well as ways to end this destructive war were also discussed during the meeting. He was seen off at the airport by the chief of the royal protocol and the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

Crown Prince Hasan Urges Joint Red Sea Move

JN230928 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 22 Aug 87

["Text" of interview with Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan by Fu'ad Na'im and Rawwas Tarabay in Amman; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Na'im] Your Highness, the Crown Prince, how do you assess the situation in the Gulf, particularly with respect to the

protection of oil tankers and the increase in the number of naval units from Western fleets for this purpose?

[Hasan] It seems to me that the Gulf region, which at one time had been called an out of area [preceding three words in English] region, an area out of influence, has now become the focus of interest not only of the Americans and the Anglo-Saxon powers, but also the French, Dutch, and other European countries. The dispatch of minesweepers by these countries to the region shows that NATO is interested in the southern area. I believe that the picture is becoming clearer: NATO is interested in protecting the Strait [of Hormuz] and the other oil outlets. We would like to remind our listeners that the other outlets comprise the ports from which oil is exported from the Gulf to the Red Sea; that is, from Jubayl port to Yanbu' port. Thus, we are dealing with huge quantities which represent an alternative to total dependence on the Gulf. There seems to be a division of influence and presence on NATO's part in the southern area of the Gulf and the beginning of other expected results, mainly further agreements between Iran and the USSR in the northern part. The situation is volatile and needs careful observation by the Arab countries, especially when we speak about the north and about us, the Arabs of the north, within the framework of integration between our brothers in the Gulf and the countries in the Arab east.

[Na'im] Your Highness, do you not fear that the danger will spread to the Red Sea, the artery which complements the Gulf? Your highness had suggested the creation of a new regional concept which you have called the Red Sea region or the expanded Sinai region. How do you define this region and what are its strategic and economic benefits?

[Hasan] As you know, our efforts and His Majesty King Husayn's ongoing efforts with all the Arab countries in the Arab east have been advocating political and economic integration and, subsequently, regional impregnability and will. However, now we are witnessing an interest in the region's strategic artery, represented by the Gulf on one side and the Red Sea on the other, with not even a minimum level of coordination among the Arab Red Sea littoral states. It goes without saying that the Arab countries are not the only ones which overlook the Red Sea. Israel has a clear interest through its strategic Zionist plan which was made public 2 years ago. This plan represents the Sharon school of thought which calls for showing strategic interest in this region. The plan also speaks about the relative cost for Western countries to exploit this strategic dimension, not to mention the direct exploitation or direct presence in the Gulf's southern part of Western forces whose number does not exceed 20,000. Moreover, Israel can put forth huge numbers in addition to bases and the Jericho missiles which can reach any target in the region. There is real anxiety which will inevitably be the basis of a comprehensive concept for the Arab Red Sea littoral states. I believe that recent incidents in Mecca explicitly show that the Gulf is not the only hot spot in the region and that the Red Sea complements this picture. However, the essential question is: What about Arab will and an integrated and clear Arab concept at this stage? [passage omitted]

[Na'im] Your Highness, do you believe that the installation of pipelines through Arab territory for carrying oil is better than the current method of shipping Arab oil by sea?

[Hasan] I believe that this alternative can be exploited in the interests of the region. One may tell the Western countries and the United States that the Arab region's interest in stabilizing oil prices in the interest of Arab economic integration is a clear Arab concern and that this exploitation is farsighted, representing a substitute for the total interest in the Gulf. However, this exploitation should be accompanied by specific proposals. As you know, we hosted the Arab economic summit here in 1980 and we spoke about integration between the oil-producing and non-oil producing countries. When we look at the Red Sea region, at the economic state of affairs in the countries of the region, including Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, and Somalia, and at the differences between them, we find that we must enhance this integration if we want to close this social and economic gap and if we want to attain broader integration that includes all the countries to the north of the Arabian Peninsula. I believe that we do not have the time here to speak about the economic state of affairs in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. However, this pipeline, the Jubayl-Yanbu' pipeline, should represent a definite way out of the Gulf deadlock and the Iranian threats so that we may not fall into another trap, or outside pressures, including Zionist ambitions and designs. [passage omitted]

[Tarabay] Your Highness, we thank you on behalf of Radio Monte Carlo for this interview. However, I would like to ask you a question somewhat related to the topic of this interview. What is Jordan's current role in the efforts to achieve rapprochement between Damascus and Baghdad?

[Hasan] Our efforts continue in this sphere with the two capitals you have mentioned. However, the declared official stands of Damascus and Baghdad are known. The issue of the current Gulf war is being discussed at the level of the UN Security Council. The interest of the Arab countries in the region is becoming more objective with regard to the concepts of the recent [UN Security Council] resolution. The UN secretary general is preparing to visit the area, including Tehran. I do not believe there is any leeway for moving away from this comprehensive concept. As for relations between one fraternal Arab country and another, this will be taken up in direct discussions. There are promising signs, such as the recent visit by UAE President Shaykh Zayid to Damascus. However, I believe it is still premature to speak about a breakthrough [preceding word in English], in spite of the fact that the basic objective of these efforts -- as is the case with all our efforts regarding other countries in the Arab east -- consists of taking a united stand to avert danger and to confront designs seeking to control our resources. It is difficult to express optimism in this gloomy stage, but we cannot lose hope.

[Tarabay] Your Highness, Crown Prince Hasan, we thank you for this interview.

[Hasan] I would like to thank you, as well as the staff of Radio Monte Carlo.

Ministry Report Views Oil Prospects, Gas Production

JN201349 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
20 Aug 87 pp 1, 23

[By Ahmad al-Hasban]

[Excerpts] Sources in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Wealth [as published] have expressed the hope that current and future oil discoveries in Jordan will lead to energy self-sufficiency by the 1990's.

The sources pointed out that prospects for discovering oil and gas in the Kingdom are improving month by month.

The sources also noted that the government's efforts in oil and gas exploration, particularly the national program, have begun to bear fruit.

In late 1988 and early 1989, there will be commercial exploitation of gas from the Al-Riyashah oil field in addition to modest production of crude oil from the Hamzah oil field. [passage omitted]

In a report submitted to parliament, these sources pointed to the national program, noting that the Natural Resources Authority is leasing three foreign drilling rigs and two small auxiliary rigs. In 1980-87, 29 deep oil exploration wells were dug in the areas of Al-Azraq, Al-Riyashah, Wadi al-Sarhan, and the northern heights. Seismological surveys for oil exploration were also conducted in most regions of the Kingdom in addition to geological and exploratory studies. The sources explained that the positive outcome of this program is shown by the discovery of limited quantities of oil in the Hamzah oil field, with a current production capacity of approximately 500-700 barrels of high-quality crude per day. This crude oil flows naturally without pumping and is sent daily to a refinery.

Gas has also been discovered in commerical quantities in the Al-Riyashah area. Al-Riyashah's production has been good, estimated at 15 million cubic feet per day, which is much higher than that of the Hamzah oil field. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Says French Hostage 'Critical'

NC211923 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1918 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad organization has announced that one of the three French hostages it is holding in Lebanon is sick and in critical condition. A statement by the organization was handed to the Beirut office of a world news agency accompanied by a videotape showing French hostage Jean-Paul Kauffmann. The Islamic Jihad is also holding French diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine and two American hostages.

[Paris AFP in English at 1926 on 21 August in a similar report adds: "The group threatened to take action against the hostages if Kuwait did not stop 'mistreating' Moslem Fundamentalists held in jail in the Gulf emirate."]

Further on Islamic Jihad Statement

NC212032 Paris AFP in English 2020 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Beirut, Aug 21 (AFP) — The Islamic Jihad said here Friday that one of the French hostages it is detaining in Lebanon was "seriously ill" but did not reveal his identity, and threatened action against the five Westerners it is holding.

In a statement accompanying a video recording of French Journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann and French diplomat Marcel Carton, sent to a Western press agency, the group threatened to take action against the hostages if Kuwait did not stop "mistreating" Moslem fundamentalists held in jail in the Gulf emirate.

"We announce that one of the French hostages held by us is seriously ill. We hold the great American satan and its auxiliary France, who persist in failing to resolve the hostage affair (...) responsible for what can happen to the ones we are holding," the statement said.

The pro-Iranian fundamentalist Islamic Jihad has claimed it is holding three French hostages: Mr. Carton, 63, Marcel Fontaine, 44 and Mr. Kauffmann, 42.

In March 1986 the Islamic Jihad announced the execution of a fourth French hostage, sociologist Michel Seurat.

Islamic Jihad is also detaining two Americans — journalist Terry Anderson, 39, and Thomas Sutherland, 56, dean of the Agriculture Department at the American University of Beirut.

The Islamic Jihad accused Kuwait of "submitting our brothers who are prisoners there to the most atrocious physical and psychological tortures."

Islamic Jihad has been seeking to exchange the hostages it is holding against a group of 17 Moslem fundamentalists imprisoned in Kuwait in connection with a bombing campaign there in 1983 that targeted the U.S. and French Embassies and Kuwaiti installations claiming five lives.

Six of the 17 people jailed in Kuwait have been condemned to death, according to Kuwaiti authorities, but the death sentences have not been carried out.

The 17 inmates, including some Lebanese, are mostly Iraqi Shi'ites belonging to the pro-Iranian Al-Da'wah Party and some are believed to be relatives of members of Islamic Jihad.

Islamic Jihad said that according to information it received the Kuwaiti inmates have started a hunger strike to protest the "inhuman practices" to which they were submitted.

"The Kuwaiti regime has begun to torture our brothers and to humiliate them by prohibiting them from observing their religious duties, by prohibiting them from going to the toilets and by serving them spoiled food," the Jihad added.

"To this day we have followed Islamic precepts in treating our hostages (but) we have upheld our rights to retaliate," It warned.

On July 31 the Islamic Jihad said France had made it impossible for there to be a settlement in the hostage issue. Mr. Carton and Mr. Kauffman also appeared in the video accompanying this statement.

It had then accused France of following an "aggressive policy dictated by the United States" and has repeatedly demanded that France stop arms sales to Iraq, Iran's rival in the nearly seven-year Gulf war.

AL-SHIRA' Cited on Possible Release of Terry Waite

NC220701 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0650 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Citing an informed source in West Beirut, the *Al-Shira'* magazine today reports that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who is being held hostage in Lebanon, will be released soon. The source added that this development comes in the wake of successful contacts between a Lebanese official and the kidnappers. A $5 million deal has been concluded as a result of these contacts.

Junblatt Reportedly Asked Libya To Help Waite

NC231156 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] According to people who have visited him, Minister Walid Junblatt has revealed that he had asked Libyan leader Mu'ammer al-Qadhdhafi to help secure Terry Waite's freedom by applying pressure on the Iranians. Junblatt had met with Anglican Church representative Dr (Lace) while in Libya.

Dr (Lace) also had a meeting with Al-Qadhdhafi during which Waite's status was discussed. He has cited the Libyan leader as saying that he will intercede in an attempt to gain Waite's freedom.

Iranian Embassy in Damascus Leads Terror Command

TA211635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] A secret command that finances and oversees the activities of terrorist organizations in Lebanon is located in the Iranian Embassy in Damascus. This was disclosed in an official Lebanese report published by the *Al-Tali'ah al-'Arabiyah* newspaper. According to this report, Syrian intelligence officers receive astronomic fees from the embassy. The report also adds that Tehran sends funds and war materiel to the terrorist organizations through its embassy in Syria. The financial allocations are made in U.S. dollars. The report estimates the number of Iranian terrorists throughout Lebanon to be approximately 5,000 men.

The official Lebanese report has also reached several Arab and European capitals. According to the newspaper, it includes names, details, and documents related to Iranian terrorism in Lebanon.

Birri Comments on Hizballah, Hostages

NC231443 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has stated that he opposes the establishment of an Islamic republic in Lebanon. But, while condemning Hizballah's fanaticism, he admitted that increased extremism is beneficial to his Amal Movement.

Birri said that all he knows about the Islamic Jihad organization is that some persons have been kidnapped by a group of that name and that he opposes this. He added that the Amal Movement is detaining prisoners [sujana'], not hostages. International Red Cross representatives, a doctor, and some of their relatives visit them, he added. Birri affirmed that Amal opposes the detention of hostages and has succeeded in obtaining the release of some of them, including a Swiss diplomat, an American professor, and a French worker.

In an interview with the Geneva-based paper *La Suisse*, Birri said that the solution to the Lebanese conflict can only be Syrian. He denied that Damascus wants to make Lebanon a part of Syria and notedthat President al-Asad has confirmed to him that Syrian forces will leave Lebanon when reconciliation among the Lebanese is achieved and when no single Israeli soldier remains on Lebanese territory.

Birri admitted that Amal's image has been shaken since the establishment of the [Palestinian] camps. He strongly criticized the Palestinians, saying that their activities are directed more against the Amal Movement than Israel.

Acting Prime Minister Hospitalized for 'Tests'

NC211940 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss became ill this evening and was taken to the American University Hospital, where he underwent medical tests. All visits and contacts with him have been banned.

Recovers, Resumes Duties

NC241217 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss resumed his activities today after recovering from an illness. He received Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid; Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi; and a delegation representing the Palestinian Women's Union, with whom he reviewed conditions in the [Palestinian]camps.

Junblatt Reportedly Invited To Visit Tehran

NC230617 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Following a meeting with Minister Walid Junblatt last night, Iranian Embassy First Secretary Mohammad Mehdi Rahmati expressed his hope that air flights between Beirut and Tehran will resume within the next 2 weeks. He said that he handed Minister Junblatt a message from the Iranian Foreign Ministry in this regard. The message also contained an invitation to Minister Junblatt to visit Tehran, the Iranian diplomat disclosed.

Anti-Syrian Explosion Causes Casualties, Damage

NC212021 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] The general headquarters of the Ba'th Party Organization and Al-Asad Battalion, situated near the Al-Shi'ar building on Tawfiq Salim Street off Muhammad Al-Hut in Ra's al-Nab', has been the target of a big explosion. The blast has caused a number of casualties and extensive material damage.

A group calling itself the Revolutionary Organization for Liberation and Unification [Al-Munazammah al-Thawriyah Liltahrir wa al-Tawhid] telephoned our radio to announce that at 1910 today, one of its units had detonated an explosive device containing 25 kg of TNT near the Syrian Ba'th Party Organization and Al-Asad Battalion headquarters. Several people were killed and there was considerable material damage.

The organization threatened to continue its operations until the Syrian occupation troops withdraw from all Lebanese territory.

Group Claims Attacks on Syrians in Tripoli

NC211626 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 21 Aug 8

[Text] An organization calling itself the Muslim Youth — 9 February Forces [Al-Shahab al-Muslim — Quwwat Tis'ah Shubat] has claimed responsibility for detonating seven explosive devices aimed at Syrian targets in the areas of Ba'l Muhsin and Bab al-Tabbanah in Tripoli. A spokesman for the organization

pledged to continue the struggle until Tripoli is liberated from the Syrian forces.

Force 17 Commander Reportedly 'Still Alive'

JN220937 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Aug (WAKH) — Responsible Palestinian sources have affirmed that Lieutenant Colonel Rassam al-Ghul, the official in charge of Fatah's Force 17 in southern Lebanon, is still alive following reports that his kidnappers had liquidated him. The Palestinian sources told the Abu Dhabi paper *Al-Ittihad* today that the kidnapping took place last Wednesday evening when Al-Ghul was attending the wedding of Major Badi' Abu Sulayman, commander of the Usamah ibn Zayd Battalion of the Fatah Movement, in the Islami orphanage building near the Lebanese University in Sidon. The sources added that two of his escorts, who were kidnapped with him, were later released and that the commander of Force 17 is still alive.

The sources affirmed that contacts are currently underway among the various Palestinian factions in southern Lebanon to contain this incident and to prevent any exacerbation of the situation that mightharm the Palestinian struggle. They added that most of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist officials are doing their best to settle this incident.

Israeli Helicopter Rakes Areas in South

NC241200 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Machinegun fire and rockets have been exchanged along the Lib'a-Kafr Falus and 'Ayn al-Mir lines in the south since 1100 today. The town of Jarju' came under intermittent bombardment from Tallat al-Suwayda" at noon. In the meantime, an Israeli helicopter has raked Wadi al-Saluqi and Bayt Yahun.

SSNP Accuses PSP of Besieging Town, Murdering Two

NC230715 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Commenting on the events that have taken place in Bshamun, the secretariat for radio affairs in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] issued a statement yesterday which said: Bshamun has been suffering for the 2d successive day as a result of the siege imposed on it by PSP forces following an incident that took place the day before yesterday. PSP forces arrested 'Imad al-Tijani, who was wounded in the incident, and Husayn and Amin al-Tijani.

Under this siege, PSP elements murdered detainees Husayn and Amin al-Tijani, while the fate of the wounded 'Imad is still unknown. The same elements raided several houses and arrested a number of citizens, including Muhammad, Rabi', and Akram 'Id.

The statement added: While reporting these details to the national and international public and announcing the martyrdom of the two detainees Husayn and Amin, the SSNP would like to affirm that it will not allow these rancorous elements to continue their attacks against the inhabitants of the mountain region.

Ja'ja' Speech Urges 'Independence Government'

NC220927 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0535 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Speech by Samir Ja'ja', commander in chief of the Lebanese Forces, in 'Amshit on 21 August — recorded]

[Excerpts] If it is true that some people have fallen into the dustbin of history, then it is equally true that others should fall into the dustbin of geography. [applause] If the goats [Christians] which have been hewn from the rocks of this mountain do not please some people, I would say that the monkeys [Syrians] are hardly pleasant at all. [applause] O, Syrians: Take your hands off Lebanon or we shall force you to do so. People who have lost their rights will have to get them back sooner or later. [cheers] [passage omitted]

President Hafiz al-Asad argues that the Lebanese should not discuss issues of the economy or the government before they achieve a national reconciliation. Undoubtedly, what he has in mind is his own notion of peace; namely, the tripartite agreement or a similar arrangement. The Syrians are exerting economic pressure on us in order to force us to subscribe to this solution. This is what they mean when they say that reconciliation should come before the economy or the government.

I have two remarks to make in this regard:

The first is for the Syrians. If the Syrians think — although I am not certain that they command such a faculty [laughter and cheers] — if they think that they can pressure us into submission or into accepting any fait accompli, then they are making a big mistake. Our history is unequivocably clear on that; our past is studded with living examples of resistance to occupation and occupiers and of fighting to the bitter end. Our history has shown that when our people were backed into a corner and besieged in their towns, they preferred collective suicide to surrendering to the enemy. However, this time we will not commit collective suicide; rather, we will stage a massive resistance to force the enemy to commit collective suicide. [applause]

My second comment is to all our people in the liberated area and in any part of Lebanon. We are a living people. We are worthy of life and of a future. We will never trade our country for a piece of bread for if we do so, we will only end up losing the country and the bread. I am confident that we will stand together and adjust our daily life so as to cope with the new economic pressures regardless of how strong these pressures are or how long they may last. [passage omitted]

Here, from Jubayl, I call on the country's officials, from the lowest to the highest ranking official, to seek the formation of a new, effective, and dynamic government which, above all, should be independent from Syria. For our part, we are ready to act as a spearhead to deflect any possible Syrian pressure on such a government. We are also prepared to give such a government the necessary domestic backing; in other words, we would help this

government to close all the illegal ports and to collect all of its taxes even though I realize that some of you will not be too happy with that. We will help the government to collect all of its dues. We also will support any measure which such a government would deem helpful in balancing the budget and in alleviating the current economic troubles.

Our mere mention of an independence government has time and again prompted a senseless outcry from Syria and its Lebanese followers. A typical accusation is that such a government would be one of partition [hukumat taqsim]. I insist that this is not a government of partition. True, this government would be established in one part rather than the whole of Lebanon; however, this is natural for any government that desires to be independent from Syria, not from Lebanon. Unfortunately, some Lebanese officials confuse Syria with Lebanon. They claim that such a government is meant to be a government of independence from Lebanon. On the contrary, such a government is one of independence from Syria.

Such a government is not necessarily one of partition just because it would have authority over only one part of the country. It is natural that such a government should be established in any part of the country which is not under occupation.

Were we to attempt to form a government representing all of the Lebanese areas at present, we would have to give the Syrians their share of such a government. If that were to happen, we would end up with a Syrian-controlled government similar to the current one which covers up and bolsters the Syrian presence in Lebanon. This government contributes to institutional decay, to starvation, and to further entrenching occupation. We do not want that. We want a government of independence.

I do not doubt for 1 minute that there are many patriots in the nonliberated [Syrian-controlled] areas. However, I also have never doubted that these patriotic figures do not have the freedom to act, to express their opinion, or to make their own decisions. [passage omitted]

Under the present circumstances we, the people, the parties, and the leaders in the liberated areas, have to assume the responsibility for the entire country and for the formation of a government of all Lebanon in our free part of the country. We cannot ask the leaders living in other sections of the country to do more than they can do. It is only natural that if any of them were to speak against occupation, he would be dismissed, discarded, or killed.

In the 1950's, when the Viet Cong got together and formed the North Vietnamese Government in one part of their country, no one described what they were doing as partition. [passage omitted]

Our country is under occupation. We are fortunate, however, that an important section of this country is still in our hands and is still free. This is why we should establish an all Lebanon government in this free section of the country until the rest of the state is freed and unification is made possible. Any talk about the unification of Lebanon before its liberation is not serious or practical. This is true for a simple reason. As long as the Syrian Army remains in Lebanon, the other foreign armies will also remain. The Iranians will remain, as well as the Palestinians and the Israelis. These foreign armies are the ones who draw the lines of partition. Their presence defines the lines of the current partition. [passage omitted]

Some people say that the idea of an independence government is not a valid one because such a government has not been established yet. I would say that the fact that such a government has not been established is in itself formidable evidence attesting to the seriousness of this idea. Even the Syrians and their followers are well aware that this is the first serious step toward expelling them from the country. This is why the Syrians will fight tooth and nail against this plan.

It is sad that some of us have accustomed ourselves to accepting the force of circumstance and intimidation, as though they still have anything to lose. This is why an independence government would certainly not come about overnight. However, we are deadly serious about this idea, an idea which is based upon a strategic concept and without which we cannot bring about any liberation or any improvement in our condition in the long-, medium-, or short-term.

Some people raise questions about how a government of independence could save the country and what its program is. The program of an independence government is very clear. I could summarize it in five points. These points may not cover the whole range of such a government's responsibilities, but they would give you a clear indication of the nature of its work:

First, an independence government should seek to establish a single and unified authority over the areas free from occupation, an authority which would take charge of all the social, political, and military reponsibilities in these areas.

Second, such a government should take quick measures to relieve economic pressures on the people. [passage omitted]

Third, an independence government should organize the various aspects of life in the east [Beirut] areas, including the social, political, and military conditions, as well as media affairs. It should rally all resources in preparation for the battle of liberation irrespective of whether this battle turns out to be political or military.

Fourth, the independence government should be honest in facing the facts of the Lebanese crisis. We have been in the midst of an overwhelming crisis for 12 years and not a single official of this country has had the courage to call a spade a spade. They dodge the issues and beat about the bush. There is no more time left for procrastination. The facts have to be faced and this should be one of the tasks of the independence government. We should seek help from all regional, Arab, and international forums. We should make it plain that our country is occupied, that Syria is occupying our country, and that we need every possible help to liberate Lebanon from the Syrians and all other armies on its territories.

Fifth, the independence government should engage in all of the political and necessary alliances with any foreign party which is willing to help us to liberate our country.

In short, this is our assessment of the current situation, of the independence government, and of the long-, medium-, and short-term solutions. [passage omitted]

Radio Resumes Transmission as 'Official Voice'
NC240459 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] The radio of Lebanon from Beirut has resumed transmission of its normal programs today following a forced suspension as a result of faults in equipment. These problems have now been repaired.

The radio will remain the official voice of Lebanon. Its transmission should not cease since it expresses continuation within the framework of the national duty which must be shouldered.

Al-Asad Receives Reagan Letter of Appreciation

JN221205 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has received a letter from President Reagan expressing his sincere appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the president and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to obtain the release of U.S. journalist Charles Glass and for Syria's great assistance in facilitating his return to his family.

Jordan's Al-Rifa'i Arrives, Received by Al-Asad

JN221140 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] At 1345 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Damascus at 1030 this morning. He was welcomed at Damascus airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd Al-Ra'uf al-Kasm. He was also welcomed by Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of interior; Dr Muhammad al-Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; 'Abd al-Rahman al-Madani, minister of irrigation; 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs; and 'Abd al-Mun'im Hamawi, minister of state for cabinet affairs.

After shaking hands with those who welcomed him, Al-Rifa'i left with Dr al-Kasm in an official motorcade for the Prime Ministry. Dr al-Kasm and Al-Rifa'i held a closed meeting in which they discussed the current situation in the Arab arena, bilateral relations, and issues of mutual concern.

Departs Damascus 22 Aug

JN221757 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i left Damascus for Amman at 1900 today. He was seen off by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm. He was also seen off by Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of interior; Dr Muhammad al-Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; 'Abd al-Rahman al-Madani, minister of irrigation; 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs; and 'Abd al-Mun'im Hamawi, minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Soviet Trade Official Concludes Visit, Leaves

JN211646 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus — Burmistrov, Soviet first deputy minister of foreign trade and industry [title as heard], and his accompanying delegation left Damascus at 1200 today.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Burmistrov expressed his pleasure over the country's cultural and economic development under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He also indicated that his talks with Syrian economic officials had been fruitful and successful, adding that they fall in line with the existing ties of friendship and cooperation binding the two friendly countries and peoples in all spheres, especially economy and trade. He expressed hope that the ties of economic cooperation and trade will be further developed and enhanced in the mutual interests of both countries. He also expressed the hope that efforts will continue to surmount all difficulties hindering joint cooperation and the further enhancement of bilateral relations.

Hungarian Official Makes Statement, Departs

JN221351 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus — Otto Herkner, Hungary's deputy minister of foreign trade and deputy chairman of the Hungarian-Syrian joint committee for economic, technical, and cultural cooperation, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning. In a statement to a SANA correspondent prior to leaving, he praised the social and industrial progress in Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad. He also hailed the success of the Damascus International Fair, wishing it greater progress and prosperity. He affirmed that the Damascus International Fair plays an important and basic role in promoting cooperation and friendly relations among the countries of the world in economic and trade areas.

Herkner added that his talks with Syrian economic officials had been successful and fruitful. During these talks, the Syrian Arab and the Hungarian sides stressed the need to promote economic and trade relations in the best way possible.

AL-THAWRAH Assails Egypt's Treason

PM211213 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
15 Aug 87 p 3

[Nazih al-Shufi article: "The 1987 'Bright Star' Exercises — A Confirmation of U.S. Aggressive Policy in the Region"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Administration has made a habit of proving its presence in our Arab region by all ways and means including outright military presence, the sending of envoys, the staging of unilateral or joint military exercises, the use of fixed and mobile military bases, naval and air force visits, threats, provocations, and big stick tactics. Whenever the Middle East situation deteriorates, the U.S. Administration acts quickly to demonstrate its presence, always using the same excuse of safeguarding U.S. "vital interests" in the Middle East.

Any observer can see that these interests are now concentrated in the Gulf region — the oil fields, to be specific — and that all the ploys and circles employed by the United States are geared toward achieving its main "vital" aim of controlling the oil resources. The U.S. "Bright Star-87" joint military exercises with the Egyptian regime in Egyptian waters are a part of this customary and periodic U.S. policy. [passage omitted]

As Washington mobilizes its fleets in the Arab Gulf, its exercises in Somalia and Egypt can be viewed as a link in the chain of preparations for battle and for attacking the region through its sea gates.

Why? The Rapid Deployment Force was created some 10 years ago especially for the Middle East. Parts of that force have now been moved to Somalia and Egypt and U.S. naval units are being concentrated in the Arab Gulf, leading one to expect a U.S. attack in the region, particularly as the Gulf situation is deteriorating. Whenever the situation in the Gulf begins to calm down, the United States lights a fuse and escalates tension. That is why we emphasize that a U.S. aggression is imminent. If Washington is now trying to mislead, cover up, be evasive about its exercises in Somalia and Egypt, and turn attention away from the mounting tension in the Gulf, as statements by White House officials and U.S. politicians indicate, this is because the general area is being scrutinized prior to dealing a blow, launching a premeditated aggression against the Gulf, imposing the logic of force, and controlling the Gulf with slogans and pretexts which are nothing more than a false cover for U.S. designs. [passage omitted]

What Washington is doing under these ridiculous and feeble slogans and pretexts is justifiable in the eyes of its agents and followers who open their seas and gates to its fleets, destroyers, and forces, providing all the facilities necessary for them to accomplish their aggressive mission -- even if that mission is against their own people, nation, and their fraternal countries. Falling into that category is Camp David's Egypt, which has opened the door wide for U.S. forces' training, in a Middle Eastern climate and environment, in methods of invading the Arab Gulf.

What the Egyptian regime is doing has surpassed all limits of treason, all imagination. What the Americans are doing in our region has surpassed all limits of laws and tradition and violates the entire region's peace and security. It is no exaggeration to say that Washington intends to storm this Mashriq and begin its attack on the region from the Egyptian gate, through Arab and African routes, whether they are in Somalia, Ibn Gharir, or anywhere else.

Its fabrication of all these crises throughout the years in the Gulf (where the continuously raging Iraq-Iran fire is being extended to the rest of the Gulf) provides it with good reasons and bases for a large-scale U.S. attack on the Arab region in complex, conflicting, diverse, and tense regional and international conditions. Washington believes that these circumstances are suitable for it to launch its major aggression against the region, now that its military presence in the region enables it to mount such dangerous and comprehensive aggression.

What remains to be noted is that the Camp David regime has gone much deeper in its treason and that the death of the symbols of that regime is not enough, judging by the crime it is committing against the Arab nation, the future of this region, and against our generation and future generations.

Najib Tours Qandahar, Meets With Local Officials

LD212216 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
1130 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Kabul, 21 Aug (*Bakhtar*) Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, arrived in Qandahar city yesterday morning. In visiting various regions of the historic city of Qandahar he met and spoke personally with clergymen, ulema, elders, and representatives of various strata in this province.

The BIA correspondent reports that Comrade Najib — accompanied by Comrade Major General Muhammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of defense; and Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Yaqubi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of state security — arrived yesterday morning in Qandahar city. He then visited the sacred shrine of the Holy Kherqa of Muhammad the Prophet — peace be upon him — and he prayed for the pure soul of Muhammad — peace be upon him — the great prophet of Muslims. Comrade Najib was accompanied by Abdul Qader Ashna, secretary of the Qandahar provincial party committee; Muhammad Karim Sahra'i, chairman of the People's Representative Council of the Qandahar Province Executive Committee; and other party and government leaders from this province.

Comrade Najib and his accompanying delegation then went to the Qandahar Army Corps Headquarters and was welcomed in the courtyard by Brigadier General Zabehollah Ziarman, general head of the Army's Political Affairs Department; Major General Muhammad Juma Ahak, commander of Qandahar Army Corps; and other personnel.

Comrade Najib presented DRA medals and badges to a number of heroic officers and men of the Army Corps, People's Militia, and State Security of this province who had displayed merit in restoring peace and struggling against the extremists. Najib wished them further success in serving the country and homeland. Comrade Najib and his accompanying delegation then laid a wreath at the monument commemorating the martyrs of the revolution and paid their respects.

Comrade Najib moved on to the headquarters of the Executive Committee of the provincial people's delegates council and met a number of elders, ulema, clergymen, representatives of various strata and classes, and social organizations of Qandahar Province.

At this meeting, Comrade Najib spoke about the objectives of the national reconciliation policy and its value in the socioeconomic and political life of the people. He also explained the fundamental phases of the policy of national reconciliation with regard to the cessation of the war and the restoration of nationwide peace in the country and said: It is a matter of great pride for me to visit historic Qandahar Province today and to speak personally with the elders of these brave and courageous people.

Comrade Najib said: At this very moment, if we ask everyone in the country, every woman, child, mother, elder, worker, peasant, or clergyman, if they want peace or war, all would say with one voice that they want peace. If the war continues in this manner, what will be its consequence?

We have announced the policy of national reconciliation in order to conclude this calamity. As you see, by moving forward on the path toward the implementation of national reconciliation, valuable gains were achieved in the task of peace and security.

Comrade Najib added: We will continue the national reconciliation policy and invite all those who have not yet renounced war to solve differences by reconciliation, councils, and consultation. You — ulema, clergymen, nationality chiefs, and influential personalities — should pass on this principled policy of national sovereignty to the opponents and invite them to reconcile and compromise in accordance with the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, so that all may begin to work for peace and calmness.

At the end of his talk, Comrade Najib presented 400,000 afghanis to assist the clergymen, and 400,000 afghanis to assist the families of the martyrs on the path of the revolution. On the basis of the proposal of one inhabitant, he gave instructions to commence the renovation work of Qandahar hospital with the allocation of 1 million afghanis. [passage omitted on elder's speech of thanks]

At 1230, Comrade Najib and his accompanying delegation met with a number of Qandahar inhabitants, went to the Mosque of Kherga-e Mubarak of Muhammad — the Prophet — and performed the noon prayer with other worshipers of Qandahar city.

At the end of prayer, Comrade Najib donated 2 million afghanis for the renovation and furnishing of the shrine of Kherqa-e Mubarak of Muhammad — peace be upon him. He presented the donation to the head of the Islamic Affairs and Endowment Department of this province. [passage omitted on visit to textile factory]

Comrade Najib and his accompanying delegation then took part in the gathering of the workers at a Qandahar textile factory. In his talk, Comrade Najib recalled with appreciation the work and activities of the workers and explained their duties and responsibilities under the country's present circumstances. Comrade Najib said: Only the work and activities of your strong hands can remedy the losses stemming from the imposed war. We will soon begin to renovate and repair the economic, productive, and constructive installations in Qandahar Province. We will strive to provide better working conditions, a peaceful life, and tranquillity for you, the workers. [passage omitted on statements by two workers]

Comrade Najib also took part in a ceremony held at the factory for the distribution of free goods provided by the friendly country, the USSR. On the distribution of aid to a number of the deserving workers, he said: You workers know that the USSR is an old friend of our people and was the first country to recognize Afghanistan's independence. The Soviet Union's assistance extends to all areas of our people's life. Our people attach great value to this assistance. Now that our people have withstood enormous losses, the Soviet Union has increased its assistance to the Afghan people and has hastened to assist our people. Our

people truly perceive the importance of the friendship and assistance of the friendly country, the Soviet Union, which is being linked with their life.

According to another report, Comrade Najib returned to Kabul yesterday evening.

Karachi Notes Fierce Fighting Throughout Country

BK221546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that fierce fighting is continuing between the mujahidin and the Soviet-Kabul troops in various parts of the country.

There have been two clashes in Zabol Province itself. In one of these clashes, the mujahidin ambushed a Soviet guerrilla squad and killed several Soviet soldiers. In another operation, the mujahidin attacked a Kabul regime military post, killing 33 and capturing 12 soldiers.

In a sudden attack on the Ghazni airport, the mujahidin damaged airport installations and killed several Soviet-Kabul soldiers.

The mujahidin also attacked a Soviet base near Jalalabad, killing nine soldiers and destroying two armored vehicles.

Mujahidin Claim 17 Troops Killed in 2 Attacks

BK220812 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have claimed success in their attacks this week on two Soviet-Kabul military posts. In their attacks on an Army garrison, southwest of Kabul, they killed eight Soviet-Kabul troops. They also attacked a Soviet base near Jalalabad, killing nine troops besides destroying two armored vehicles.

AFP: Guerrilla Commander Receives Letter Bomb

BK220330 Hong Kong AFP in English
0312 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 21 (AFP) — An Afghan guerrilla commander told correspondents in Pakistan Friday he was seriously wounded by a letter-bomb sent by regional officials in Afghanistan in revenge for an attack on a government post. Sher Muhammad, 28, regional guerrilla commander in Laghman, east of Kabul, said he was opening the letter August 2 in the local capital, Mehtar Lam, when it exploded, wounding him in the hands and blowing out one of the eyes of the mediator who delivered it. He said he was brought on horseback to the west Pakistan town of Peshawar for treatment.

The Afghan guerrilla commander said he received a letter in July from the regional authorities proposing a ceasefire and reconciliation talks. He said he was tempted to accept the offer because to back it up Soviet soldiers had been withdrawn from the region. But he told the correspondents in Peshawar he eventually refused because he could not accept the idea of a communist government.

Sher Muhammad said he later attacked a government post, killing four soldiers, and he believed the letter-bomb was sent by the authorities as revenge for this.

Several Afghan guerrilla sources in Pakistan and the official Afghan media have mentioned offers of reconciliation talks by authorities throughout the country to local guerrilla commanders. The official media says some commanders have accepted the offer and have even joined local authorities.

Ershad Says Midterm Elections 'May Be Held' in 1988

BK221553 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has said that midterm parliamentary elections may be held next year to ease the growing political unrest in the country.

He stated this while talking to a group of foreign journalists in Dhaka today. President Ershad's ruling Jatiya Party had won an overwhelming majority in elections for the 330-member Parliament in May last year.

Discusses Floods, Student Politics

BK221641 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] President Ershad has ordered the dispatch of senior government officers of the level of joint secretary and above to the flood-affected upazilas [subdistricts]. They will make an on-the-spot assessment of damages caused to crops and properties for immediate (?implementation) of the comprehensive post-flood rehabilitation program. The president gave the order at a briefing session at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka today on the latest flood situation and relief measures.

The chief coordinator of the flood monitoring and relief activities cell at the president's secretariat, Major General Sadiqur Rahman Chowdhury, gave the briefing. The president said the flood damages are enormous this year. Piecemeal approach to tackle the gigantic relief and post-flood rehabilitation will not be effective, as such a situation needs a coordinated and united move by all.

The president said it required that senior officials should remain in the affected upazilas for a longer period to supervise and coordinate the post-flood rehabilitation program. This is a national problem facing the country, and all — especially those working in government agencies and the public sector — must be totally committed to our distressed brothers and sisters. The president said about 15 crore taka will be required alone to repair the railway bridges damaged by the floods. In this context, he mentioned about a recent circular issued to all government departments to observe utmost austerity to save whatever is possible to augment the post-flood rehabilitation program. The government has mobilized all available resources for relief of the flood victims and is using all means to reach relief goods to them.

Describing the present food situation as satisfactory, the president said about 1 million tons of foodgrains are in government stock to (?meet) the immediate needs. Steps are also under way to procure more foodgrains from abroad. President Ershad said Bangladesh's friends abroad are contacting him and his government about the requirements of relief for the flood-hit areas. In this connection, he said he plans to send special envoys to friendly countries to inform them about the flood havoc this year.

The president also spoke to the members of the Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh in Dhaka today on the flood situation and relief measures. He said the floods this year have assumed an unprecedented dimension, more catastrophic than those of 1974 and 1984. The country has now one goal and this is to save the suffering people. In such a situation, the efforts of the government alone cannot suffice to mitigate the sufferings of the people. All, including the political parties, should come forward in aid of the flood victims. In this connection, he referred to the spontaneous response received from individuals and institutions to his call to donate generously to his relief fund.

The president said there is a democratically elected government with people's mandate. His government has restored peace and stability and created a congenial environment for economic development. The government has also brought about vital reforms resulting in the increase of agricultural output, industrial production, and exports earnings.

On the situation in the educational campus, he said student politics and violence are eating into the vitals of not only the future of the country, but also the entire education system.

Referring to the situation in the region, President Ershad said SAARC has achieved substantial gains for its member countries.

Police Firing Kills 1 in Jammu-Kashmir

BK211602 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the police opened fire at Gauri Kadal in Srinagar today to disperse a violent mob. One person died. A number of policemen including a superintendent of police and a couple of magistrates were injured in stone throwing by the mob. The clashes followed an altercation between two groups of students at a seminar in a private college.

'Terrorists' Kill 8 Persons in Punjab 21 Aug

BK220901 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] In Punjab, eight persons, including a Home Guard havildar [low-ranking policeman] and a caretaker of a religious place, were killed by terrorists in separate incidents last night. The incidents took place in the districts of Gurdaspur, Ropar, Jullundur, and Amritsar.

Meanwhile, the man killed in an encounter in Chativin area of Amritsar yesterday has been identified as Lakhvinder Singh, a dreaded terrorist. He was responsible for a number of terrorist activities in the district.

4 'Terrorists' Killed

BK240307 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists were killed in an encounter with a BSF [Border Security Force] patrol party near village Sohal in Gurdaspur District last night. According to an official spokesman, the identity of the terrorists has not yet been established.

A dreaded terrorist, Ranjit Singh, was also killed near village Churhat Shak in Faridkot District in an encounter with the police. One of his accomplices managed to escape.

According to a police spokesman, Ranjit Singh was involved in about 40 killings, including a CPI leader and his family members at Chogawan village. The spokesman said that four terrorists were also arrested yesterday. Some foreign-made weapons were recovered from them.

Curfew Imposed in Meghalaya After 5 Die in Clashes

BK220905 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Five persons were killed in mob violence at Tura in Meghalaya last evening. Police resorted to firing when the crowd set fire to some houses in the town. Of the five killed, two died in police firing. Nine persons were also injured. Indefinite curfew has been clamped in the area. Additional police reinforcement has been sent.

Shankar Dayal Sharma Elected Vice President Unopposed

BK211332 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma has been elected the eighth vice president of India unopposed. This was announced by the returning officer and the secretary general of the Rajya Sabha in New Delhi this afternoon at the end of the deadline for withdrawal of the candidature. Dr Sharma's nomination paper was the only one found valid. The papers filed by 26 other candidates were rejected on Wednesday [19 August] as they were not in accordance with the rules.

Dr Sharma succeeds Mr R. Venkataraman who has assumed charge as the president of India. He was the consensus candidate of the Congress-I and the opposition, and the third vice president to be elected unopposed. [passage omitted on Sharma biography]

Swedish Prosecutor To Investigate Bofors Deal

BK200335 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] The chief prosecutor of Stockholm, Mr Lars Ringberg, says he will open an investigation into charges of bribery connected with the Bofors gun deal with India.

Talking to Swedish radio, he said there are sufficient grounds to suspect about the payment of alleged bribes in connection with the order which was won in the face of still international competition. Mr Ringberg said he had made the decision in the light of the allegations contained in the mass media and confirmed by the National Audit Bureau's investigation. The investigation, to be conducted by the Swedish police crime branch, will focus on the question whether a sum of nearly $40 million was paid in order to bag the deal. An inquiry by Sweden's National Audit Bureau in May had concluded that payments were made in connection with the deal.

Some opposition leaders in parliament yesterday met the Swedish ambassador in New Delhi and told him that they intend visiting Sweden next month. They said they would convey their misapprehensions about nonreceipt of vital information regarding the alleged illegal payments to some individuals or firms in the Bofors gun deal. The leaders were Mr P. Upendra, Mr Madhava Reddy, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, Mr K.P. Unnikrishnan, Mr M.s. Gurupadaswamy, Mr Virendra Varma, Mr S.P. Malaviya, Mr Murasoli Maran, and Dr Dutta Samant.

Water Resources Minister Resigns; Gandhi in Charge

BK221628 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] The president has accepted the resignation of the water resources minister, Mr B. Shankaranand, from the Council of Ministers. A Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] communique issued this evening says the prime minister will look after the Ministry of Water Resources for the time being.

Mr Shankaranand has resigned following his nomination to the joint parliamentary committee to inquire into the Bofors deal.

Soviet Official Praises Worldwide Peace Efforts

BK220430 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] The Soviet vice president, Mrs Shevchenko, has praised India's efforts to strive for peace not only in the Indian subcontinent but in entire Asia. She was inaugurating a year-long national celebration in connection with the 40th anniversary of India's independence organized by the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society in Hyderabad yesterday. She cautioned that some forces are trying to destabilize India, but expressed her confidence that India will emerge out of the difficulty.

Views Friendship, Socialist Society

BK230323 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, a 12 and 1/2-foot bronze statue of Lenin was unveiled in Vijaywarad yesterday by the Soviet vice president, Mrs V. S. Shevchenko. Speaking on the occasion, she said India-Soviet friendship will take the world toward creating a socialist pattern of society.

Ugandan Foreign Minister Arrives in Delhi 18 Aug

BK190634 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] The foreign minister of Uganda, Mr Ibrahim Mukiibi, who was received by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, will call on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, during his stay in the capital.

Meets With Gandhi, Finance Minister

EA212002 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Ibrahim Mukiibi, has completed a 4-day official visit to India during which he held talks with the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. During the meeting the prime minister and the foreign minister discussed a number of issues concerning bilateral relations between Uganda and India, and international issues with specific reference to the situation in South Africa, Namibia, and Sri Lanka. They also discussed the Nonaligned Movement and the forthcoming Commonwealth meeting in Vancouver, Canada.

Mr Mukiibi briefed the prime minister on the situation in Uganda and the government's efforts to rehabilitate the devastated economy with particular emphasis on the priority areas with the Uganda rehabilitation plan. The discussions were mainly based on India's assistance to Uganda in the fields of transport, rehabilitation of agro-based industries, and supply of agricultural inputs and implements.

Mr Mukiibi requested for new lines of credit from India and rescheduling and softening of the terms of payments of previous credits that India had extended to Uganda.

Mr Mukiibi thanked the Indian Government for the vital role it is playing in international issues with specific reference to the Nonaligned Movement and South-to-South cooperation.

The minister said India is the model for all Third World countries and urged other developing countries to follow the Indian example in order to attain self-determination and meaningful independence. He particularly thanked the prime minister for the recent peace accord signed in Sri Lanka in which India played a very important role.

The prime minister thanked the minister and the NRM government for the fundamental change brought in Uganda. He said he is happy to learn that the people of Uganda move freely and respect human rights and life had been restored. [sentence as heard] He said India welcomes the changes in Uganda and will cooperate with the NRM government in all ways possible to help the Uganda Government restore the credibility and the country's shattered economy.

The prime minister said that with restoration of respect to human rights in Uganda, the people of Uganda can rightfully join the struggle being carried out to free the people of South Africa from the brutal regime of apartheid. As an administrator of the solidarity fund, the prime minister expressed gratitude to Uganda for the continuation to the fund.

Earlier the minister held talks with a cross-section of both government and business community of India. The meeting agreed on a number of issues in areas of economic cooperation between Uganda and India. It was agreed that immediate exchange of delegations should follow to discuss details pertaining to economic cooperation between the two countries.

The minister also met with the minister of finance, Mr Tiwari, who disclosed that India will extend to Uganda 40 million rupees for the purchase of water rigs. Mr Mukiibi had cordial discussions with the ministers of agriculture and of state for railways, both of whom agreed to extend more assistance and training facilities to Uganda in the fields of agriculture and railways.

AFP Reports 'Nonviolent' Encounter With U.S. Escort

NC241159 Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Manama, Aug 24 (AFP) — A convoy of four Kuwaiti-owned tankers sailing under U.S. flag and Navy escort passed through the Strait of Hormuz Monday after a brief, non-violent encounter with an Iranian frigate, shipping sources said.

Just before the ships entered the Strait on their southward journey, an Iranian frigate ignored radio and visual warnings from U.S. Navy vessels and came within one nautical mile (1.15 miles or 1.8 kilometers) of the convoy, according to shipping sources.

They said the movements of the frigate forced the U.S. warships to break formation and position themselves between the Iranian vessel and the convoy, while Sea Cobra combat helicopters from the *USS Guadalcanal* overflew the approaching ship. The frigate eventually moved away and a more serious confrontation was averted, the sources said.

The convoy, which set out at dawn Saturday from the Kuwaiti port of Al-Ahmadi, was led by the 401,382-ton supertanker *Bridgeton*, followed by the helicopter carrier *USS Guadalcanal* and three smaller vessels, the oil tankers *Sea Isle City* and *Ocean City* and the methane carrier *Gas King*. A U.S. frigate and a destroyer escorted the merchant ships. [passage omitted]

Malekzadegan on 'Crash' of U.S. Press Helicopter

LD231218 Tehran IRNA in English 1212 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Bushehr, Aug. 23, IRNA — A high ranking officer in the Iranian Navy told IRNA here Sunday that the reports on the crash of an American helicopter in the Persian Gulf Saturday which were received through the Navy's monitoring services are being investigated.

The source quoted the Iranian Navy commander, Commodore Mohammad Husayn Malekzadegan as saying at the flag hoisting ceremony in a Bushehr base today "our monitoring services have received reports about the crash of an American helicopter carrying U.S. newsmen and photographers. The degree of accurancy of the incident and its details are being investigated by the Navy."

The Iranian Navy's monitoring services Saturday received several messages in connection with the incident which contains ambiguities and in some cases is contradictory regarding the number of those killed and missing as well as the number of those on board the copter. One of the messages monitored indicated the number of those picked up from the water as five and those missing as four. Another message said five were missing, when the copter crashed.

The naval source told IRNA that the Navy continues its efforts to clarify the issue.

Majlis Speaker's Prayers Sermon Views Gulf Events

LD211529 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Sermon by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the 21 August Friday prayers held at Tehran University — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted containing Koranic verse] In view of the fact that there are too many topics related to current problems and those of the past week, I have decided to include the topic of war, the most important part of my talk, in the first sermon.

However, I will not break the train of thought we had established in other sermons. As a witness to and as an opening for a debate on arrogance and meekness, as well as on the dangers arising from arrogance and the harmful and ugly characteristics of the arrogant, we will include in our sermon a chapter on the current situation in the region — a chapter which concerns world arrogance and which today constitutes the main part of the war. While the debate on social justice will continue, we will delve into the debate on the war. In the second sermon we will raise other various problems which we have in our country and in the region.

The events in the Persian Gulf have cast their shadow on the entire region, indeed the world, and are living testimony to the debates which we have conducted on the characteristics of world arrogance. Moreover, these events are examples, as seen in the Koran, of the characteristics of the arrogant, the conceited, and the selfish class.

Although the origin of the war stemmed from world arrogance, this is a reflection of the same situation. The Persian Gulf today has acquired a special situation: It is a true reflection and a mirror image of the nature of the arrogant people. Today we witness the fact that world arrogance has had to come out from behind the curtain and on to the stage. This was what we had foreseen. When Saddam Husayn began to weaken and the Ba'th Party of Iraq began to succumb to the danger of annihilation, it was easy to predict that their masters and supporters behind the scenes — those who once claimed to be neutral and, as neutral parties, used to raise the problems of the war deceptively in favor of Iraq and against us — were about to come into the open. They tried hard not to bring the issue out into the open. They attempted to have the whole affair carried out in the name of the region and of Saddam and of their first and second agents, the hypocrits and the counterrevolution. When they saw it could not be done, they were forced to gradually come into the open. Moreover, current affairs forced them into the open to some extent. Perhaps, if the events of the past 5-6 months had not taken place, it would have been too soon for them to appear in the region.

What happened in the United States — which confronted the U.S. ruling establishment with a situation worse than that of Saddam, something which shook the U.S. ruling establishment inside its own country — hastened their entry into the arena.

Of course, they needed some pretext to come to the area; they had to have a reason. A country which is thousands of kilometers away and which has claimed for 7 years to be neutral cannot

suddenly decide to group 30-40 warships in our region and to invite other countries to cooperate. Such a move needed a pretext and premeditation. For such people it is not difficult to concoct a reason. Their sort can always create scenes and then do what they wish under that kind of pretext. They do not feel shame in the presence of God. They have no conscience, no morality. [passage omitted]

If the United States wants to come to the Persian Gulf, it obviously must find a pretext. What could constitute a pretext for the United States? One pretext is the expansion of the war to nearby countries. Another is the security of the Persian Gulf. These are all fabricated reasons. We will reveal just how these pretexts are fabricated and we will prove it.

We shall clarify the nature of world arrogance. There are four verses in the Baqarah chapter of the Koran, Verses 204-207, which seem to refer to our circumstances today; that is, they clearly distinguish two sides. [passage omitted quoting Koran] The characteristics of one side, or of some people, are these: There are some people who are surprisely honest in the reasonable things they say. They seem to be enthusiastic and concerned about security, human rights, civilization and, in short, about all the noble values of the entire world. However, in their deepest thoughts, they harbor the worst kinds of grudges and enmities. Still, their words are filled with with friendship, kindness, good relations, and so on. [passage omitted quoting Koran]

If the hands [of world arrogance] were to be tied, its struggle would take the line of corruption. We see all too well what these people are doing. [passage omitted quoting Koran] The crimes that world arrogance has committed throughout its life and the criminal nature it has acquired, make it arrogant — this is the same topic that we have discussed before. This imaginery power, this shadowy power it feels, this selfishness and arrogance force it to commit sins. [passage omitted quoting Koran]

There are some people who sacrifice their lives for the sake of obtaining God's blessings. Today we have no better proof in our own times than our martyr-seeking forces who are struggling and selflessly fighting in the holy war with world arrogance and blasphemy. At the time that the Koran was revealed, there were others performing this role, such as holy 'Ali ibn Talib, Abu Zar, and Suhayl, as wel as other persons as recorded by the religious commentators. However, at present the clear proof and evidence of this Koranic verse -- which should not be categorically applied to the past but, rather, should applied to all periods of history -- are these same self-sacrificing people.

Therefore, these verses distinguish between the two sides. On the one hand, there are the faithful, mujahid, oppressed people who sacrifice themselves in order to achieve their rights and in order to defend the Koran, Islam, justice, truth, and the oppressed and the deprived. God has called these people the compassionate [ra'uf]. On the other hand, there is a devious, hypocritical, cruel, revengeful, despotic, and hard-hearted side whose speech expounds on peace-seeking slogans and uses deceptive and vulgar words. It deceptively favors peace, security, well-being, equality, reconciliation, friendship, and such things. Here we are now seeing the concrete manifestations of these verses. [passage omitted] So this is the situation we have before us now.

Now, look at the Americans and the Westerners. What are they doing? Why have they come to the Persian Gulf? Why have they created this situation? The root of the issue is that Saddam is very valuable to them. The Ba'th Party is more important to them than we could have imagined. Much time will pass before the nations can understand how much Saddam has served them. They have come to safeguard him. Until recently, they thought Saddam could resist. During these past 1-2 years, when we crossed the Arvan River and moved close to Al-Basrah, Saddam could not really do anything. Even the war of the cities, the war of vessels, chemical warfare, and the attacks on passenger airlines, all these things along with propaganda did not help him advance. Every day another vital artery of the Ba'th Party is being severed. One day it loses Mawat, another day somewhere else. When the people finally revolt inside Iraq — and this revolt is spreading — they will realize that it is not enough for them to stay in the back room and keep giving Saddam aircraft, missiles, everything. They will realize that this cannot be tolerated. They will come to the fore.

I have said in past Friday prayer sermons that they thought that they will close the issue through psychological warfare. They embarked on psychological warfare, which had a reverse effect and boomeranged against the United States. Psychological warfare is now going on within the United States itself and not inside Iran. They have realized that the show of strength turned into a show of weakness; these are the explanations they themselves have used. We are, of course, still in the midst of psychological warfare. We are passing through a phase of psychological warfare. History shows that this same psychological warfare may turn into a real war, and we should be prepared for a real war.

There were certain reasons that brought them to this point. One of these was to safeguard Saddam, which I have already mentioned. They saw that without their physical presence, they could achieve nothing, as all previous methods had been useless. The second reason concerns the internal situation in the United States. After McFarlane's disgrace and the effect it had on the U.S. Administration — and we had little to do with it — their rottenness, real impotence, and rotten nature was exposed. They were faced with a solid situation — things that did not surface in other places did come to the fore this time. [sentence as heard] It is the situation inside the United States that forces Americans to embark on adventurism in far corners of the world. U.S. policy at present is to export its internal crises; this is the essence of U.S. propoganda and psychological policy. It struggles here and there, but it keeps banging its head against the wall. Therefore, I say this type of warfare is useless, and the situation may deteriorate.

Mr Reagan himself, the President, has lost his power and authority — there are more or less confirmed reports that he is sick and apart from cancer of the duodenum [as heard] which he already had and which has recently spread to his mouth and nose, he is in an uncontrollable state. Many people believe that his speeches and statements are prepared by others; he just reads and repeats and practices a lot. Moreover, we have heard from informed sources in countries that have strong intelligence sources in the United States, that Reagan has no authority now and that no one else can run the U.S. Government in Reagan's place. The Congress exercises self-restraint, but still he cannot be controlled.

This situation is very dangerous — those who sail in damaged ships and who do not possess moral sincerity have no depth of mind and could damage their ship further and carry others down with themselves. It would not be surprising if the White House and the President's colleagues — taking into consideration their psychological frame of mind — embark on a significant adventure in the world. They do such childish things. I shall give you an example which happened yesterday. You will see how weak they are feeling now, even in media propaganda. It is quite evident that they are not in control. A journalist from the United States conducted an interview here with us. He asked about many issues and we told him about all the relevant matters. It was a long interview and they promised to publish all of it. They lifted one sentence from this interview and for 2 days now, since yesterday, this sentence has become the staple of U.S. propaganda and it is empty and devoid of content.

They have said that the speaker of the Iranian Majlis has proposed to arrange an exchange between the Lebanese prisoners in Israel and in Kuwait on the one side, and the U.S. hostages in Lebanon on the other. Here they have created a great deal of food [for propaganda] from the word proposal. Then the U.S. secretary of state...[changes thought] The U.S. State Department says: No, we will reject it; we will not deal with hostage takers, with terrorists. Israel says: We are now debating the issue to see whether it can be done or not; it is debatable.

However, the truth of the matter is this: The U.S. journalist asked me whether I thought it could be done. I said yes, we have the capability of interceding on your behalf. If you bring pressure on Israel to free the Lebanese they took illegally and made prisoners, if the Israelis free these Lebanese prisoners, then we will intercede. Of course, we do not have unlimited power: We might succeed, we might not. However, we promise to intercede on your behalf. You must also return our properties to show your goodwill. We have said this 20 times so far in every interview.

The United States now needs propaganda so desperately in order to keep itself alive, psychologically, for a few more days that it does not realize tomorrow the text of this interview will be published. We will publish the text. The United States does not consider how it might respond to the published text. It thinks only of today, not of tomorrow. These are the conditions surrounding the United States in the world today.

Well, they decided to wage psychological warfare. Now their psychological war is facing defeat. They came to the Persian Gulf. Well, what have they achieved? If the objective is psychological warfare, as it now appears, and if it is a real war, then it is another problem. We must read this page later. However, at present we believe it to be psychological warfare. What has the United States gained? It has simply become the laughingstock of the world. It has escorted two Kuwaiti ships with three U.S. warships from Khawt Fakkan to Kuwait in 10-12 days. These three ships have not yet made their return voyage. The United States decided that this was not enough. It brought a large amphibious warship carrying helicopters, 10-15 helicopters, both attack and minesweeping helicopters. They have been escorted by aircraft. The total resources of the United States and its servants have been mobilized in the region. However, they have only arrived at Kuwait; they have yet to make the return journey. According to some of our reports, one of them hit a mine. Because the U.S. ships observed radio silence, they have hidden this incident; they have kept quiet about this. Of course, I am not sure, but there is a very strong possibility that it hit a mine. Therefore, it has not been able to return, because the United States saw that it was unsafe. It said that helicopters must come to clear the way.

The next U.S. convoy had five or six ships. Yesterday when they reached the danger zone, they stopped. There has been a sandstorm. The Tabas sandstorm [allusion to the abortive rescue operation in 1979] has now moved to the Persian Gulf. This is really bad luck -- having a sandstorm on the water. [shouts of Allah Akbar confirming the speaker's argument]

Two of the ships in the convoy carry gas. They have very interesting names. One of them is named *Gas Queen* and the other *Gas Princess*, which means one of them is named shah and the other the lady princess. It is really fitting. They have set up an escortprogram for the Shah and the princess in the Persian Gulf — to organize a ceremony from top to bottom in a regal manner.

However, an oil tanker is a huge, black, dirty item, a giant which nobody looks at. What does this scene imply to the United States? What have they achieved now? In reality, is this selling oil, buying oil? Is this really a wise move they are making? If the White House is not mad, if they are not afflicated with mental sickness, if they have not lost their mental balance, such an act is foolish, even at the level of psychological warfare.

Who are you fighting in a psychological war? If one's adversary is like Egypt, like Saudi Arabia — our adversary is like these good-for-nothing people — then yes, one can bluff. These adversaries will creep to their houses. However, it is not like that here. It is obvious that threats and intimidation cannot yield results with Iran. If the objective is psychological warfare, it has been totally defeated. If the objective is to export oil, it has been totally defeated. You cannot carry oil like this. Ten days ago you brought the ships here. They have stalled there. The *Bridgeton* is still caught up there. During this period of time perhaps 30 to 40 other oil tankers have come and they did not fly the U.S. flag. Therefore, it is better for you to come without a flag. Now that they can come and go so easily without anybody hearing about it, why then are you after...[changes thought] That is not it.

If it is a matter of economics — as they now claim, and I do not know whether or not they are telling the truth — they say that $40 billion will be spent on this U.S. military operation during the proposed timeframe. Forty billion dollars is in fact the total value of all the oil which is to be exported from the region during the entire year. What kind of economics is this in order to carry oil? Of course, they may have raised this figure in order to fleece Japan and others of this amount. In any case, they have repeatedly mentioned this figure officially. If the objective is to secure the region, then it has been defeated. The situation has worsened. Khawr Fakkan was safe; now it too is unsafe. The Persian Gulf has never been so unsafe. You never needed to use 10 to 20 minesweepers. Now you are begging, asking the Netherlands to come; France, Italy, and the United Kingdom to come; and anyone anywhere who has minesweepers is asked to come to the Persian Gulf. I am sure that if all the minesweepers came here,

they could not decrease the danger of mines in the Persian Gulf because the Persian Gulf is a limited lake with shallow water. The deepest point in the Persian Gulf is 100 meters. Other points are 40 to 50 to 60 meters deep. Ships must pass only through certain lanes. It is not like an ocean where there are many sealanes. It does not matter who mines the Persian Gulf. We have not yet accepted the responsibility for mining it. They lied when they said the man in charge of the War Information Headquarters confirmed this.

In the Persian Gulf there are many mines. This region has been the scene of a war for 8 years. The Iraqis are a monstrous people; they threw all the mines they had into the sea. In the same way they are also planting mines in the ground. It is infested with mines. Moreover, others come here as well. In Khwar Fakkan — that was our lane, so you cannot say that Iranians mined it, because we ourselves use that course — a mine hit our own ship first. Of course, it was a U.S. ship but it had bought our oil and was en route when it hit a mine there. So who has mined that place? [passage omitted]

However, if we intend to plant mines, well then, O God, it is quite a different story because we can move from any point. We can cover an area for half an hour, making it unfit to use for shipping. This is fully within our means. Therefore, you yourselves are anti-security in the Persian Gulf. As far as politics are concerned, you have totally polluted the region. You had to force Saudi Arabia to commit suicide in order that you may achieve your ends.

Al Sa'ud was much too wise to soil its hands in a crime which according to the imam's saying can never be cleansed with water of Zamzam [a spring believed to have been found by Abraham near Ka'aba] until eternity. Even if Mr Fahd bathes in the well of Zamzam, no one would believe that this could wash away the implication. He must accept the consequences of his crime. You have forced Saudi Arabia to do this; you have burned their bridges. You have tried to make their relations with Iran such that they may not be put right in view of the blood drawn between us and those south of the Persian Gulf, thus rendering the crossing very difficult. In adopting this policy, which sows discord forever in the region and in the Islamic world, you have committed a crime.

However, this will be your own loss. Saudi Arabia will never throw off the weight of this crime and you will be relying on a holed vessel which you damaged yourselves. If your goal was to safeguard security, you have lost. That is, you have really made the Persian Gulf insecure. It can only be described in simple terms as a powder keg; no other term can adequately describe it. Striking a single match will cause a conflagration in the Persian Gulf, and no one there can put it out. Predicting the end to any war is possible, except the war in the Persian Gulf, for no one knows what its dimensions are or when it may end. It is not up to either or both parties; many problems will follow. Therefore, if you were aiming to secure the Persian Gulf, you have achieved the exact opposite.

Moreover, a psychological war to intimidate Iran has also produced the opposite result. Your correspondents are here. Do not ask us, ask the correspondents who are standing here and will be at many other places. Ask them about Iran and its nation. Your correspondents will tell you of their observations. Even if they do not tell your people, they will tell you in private. Is there anything stronger than the nation and morale at the fronts? Is there any house more solid than the ones here? They will not be affected by the slightest fear in response to all these threats and intimidation. Therefore, you cannot intimidate them and you have not been able to bring security to the region. Of course, you did not desire security. This became very clear. You lied, saying that you wanted security. We always said so, but now we have proof of it. It is now clear that you lied.

When you arrived here, out of fear of clashes with our ships, you asked the Iraqis not to engage in any acts for the time being. Why was it that following the *Stark* incident, Iraq became silent in the Persian Gulf? Well, you accept these stubborn and hard-headed seekers of corruption whose objective — as you yourselves admitted — has been to internationalize or regionalize the war in order to save themselves from the trap they have fallen into. You accept that Saddam is such a person; you ordered him, and he refused. [sentence as heard] I do not have any idea when this restraint will end. It will change as soon as your leadership changes. He will say that it was not carried out at the order of the United States; but we know that it was. Furthermore, you disclosed this in the United States. You may tell him to start it tomorrow, and as soon as he starts, we will know that it was at your request. Today, the party that stokes the fire is the United States.

For a long while, he has acted in the same way. Do you imagine that they would not give Saddam Exocets? They were given during the war and not before, specifically to hit vessels. Exocets are designed especially to be used against ships. France delivered Super-Etendards for the same purpose and also Super-Frelon helicopters. American AWACS are also being used to provide data about the location of Iranian ships. Iraq by itself and from Al-Shu'aybah Base cannot intercept our ships near Loven. These people gather data and deliver it to Iraq to follow our vessels' coordinates and routes on their computers which fire Exocets at vessels. The whole lot of you began attacking vessels. Therefore, if you wanted to ensure security, you should not have provided these data. You are lying.

You have been uttering many lies which we have always talked about, although they were not accepted and our voice could not be heard far away. Now that you are here, it is obvious that everything is under your control. Now that you are here, why have you told Iraq not to strike? Why did you not say this 2 months ago and before you brought flags to install them on the lady princess of gas-carriers? You could have asked Saddam from where you were to stop attacking ships. He would have accepted your words; we know that he would. The incidents would not have taken place if you had done this. Of course, this shows that you do not want security, and that your claims have been lies. These are all pretexts for two things regarding your presence in the Persian Gulf: first, to prevent the downfall of Saddam — as we guess you will begin action in a suitable juncture — and second, in case of Saddam's downfall, for the sake of preserving further bunkers.

You are beginning to believe your deceitful propaganda in saying that Iran would not stop at this juncture, but would go further. You want to stay there for good. However, you must realize that if you remain in the region, similar incidents will occur. Without your presence, nothing will happen. You have done so much that nations will not deal with Saudi Arabia on good terms. Nobody wants to see Al Sa'ud's face. You should not believe a few servant mercenaries whose pens are for hire or whose films are for sale or anyone acting as political mercenaries talking about and propagating Saudi comments. Nations have not accepted such comments. You are seeing right now that rumors of the shameful and treacherous face of Al Sa'ud are seeping into every corner of the world like water. Thus, they have lost face since your arrival. You have done the same to Kuwait, the UAE, and the house of Al-Sa'ud, and many others will join them.

Well, nations are vehemently anti-American and after a lifelong deceit about their independence, you have arrived and exposed all their lies. Now tomorrow, if your warships set sail from their soil and your Marines land on their soil, the nations will observe and not forget it. Therefore, you cannot achieve anything today. You may delay things by providing moral support to Saddam to last a little longer and prolong his filthy existence for a while so that a few more Muslims may be killed on both sides, which is in effect your wish. These are you only objectives. You will not attain security. If you really desired security, then there are much better ways to achieve it. One way is to ask Iraq not to commit any misdeeds. We in Iran always retaliate in kind and do not fall behind [jelo nemyshim]. Which vessel have we struck at during the time Iraqis refrained from striking? There are no arrows of divinity aimed at anything.

When the Lord wants to exact revenge, He will do it when you want to commit a crime. In addition, you are not all that powerful. Even if you want to do something, there is not much that can be done in the Persian Gulf. If we depended only on the modern equipment which we bought from you then, yes, you could do something, because you have superior equipment. We accept this. However, we do not rely on this. You have seen two examples of this: the mines and the boats. There are other things that you have not seen. We do not reveal everything. When a disagreement arises, then you will see. This time you came and realized that you needed minesweepers. You had to wait for minesweepers to come from Argentina, from the other side of the world, the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Next you will have to wait for other things to arrive. There are things that you have not foreseen. In addition, even if you have the equipment and even if you arrange some mischief to attack Iranian soil from the sea, what will you accomplish? About your casualties, do you think because you have brought some 27 or 28 naval vessels to the Persian Gulf that the situation will be resolved on your behalf? Each one of these vessels is a target for us. There used to be 4 targets, now there are 27.

The people of the United States more or less understand these issues. It is clear that they know this from remarks made by some U.S. representatives and reflected in the U.S. press. However, a great deal of money is being spent in the United States at the moment in order to sway public opinion toward Reagan. Do not say who is paying the United States. It is Arab money, from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia; these poor people who are alive in this world because of their money. Do not say is it possible for U.S. figures to take money and work for them. Yes, that certainly is possible. I refer to history, World War II. Hitler's charge, the German charge d'affaires in the United States, Mr (?Thompson), sent many reports to Hitler. These reports, which were published later, stated that he had bought some 50 representatives who were going to meet and denounce U.S. policy in helping the United Kingdom. [passage omitted]

We do not wish to get into a conflict with the United States and explicitly say so -- not just with the United States but with anyone. We did not even want to get into conflict with the Ba'th Party of Iraq, these people who had committed aggression against our soil 400 years before the start of the war [as heard]; we did not do much then. As soon as they started this war, we defended ourselves, and now that we have entered this defensive phase, we will remain in it until we attain our goals. As for the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and others, the southern littoral states of the Gulf [as heard], we do not wish to expand the war, but if a war is imposed on us we will be thoroughly prepared to defend ourselves. There are no limits to this defense. Once the war breaks out, there will be no time to reconsider, to say there may have been terrorist acts, or other acts; there will be none of that talk. The war will be an all-out one.

We have invited all supreme councils of war support to meet in Tehran this week to deliberate this issue and to plan for it. We foresee that psychological warfare will cause a serious conflict. We will try to avoid this, but we are only one side in the matter. If that happens, our nation must be ready and gird itself for war. I confirm again that our main war ration is that of piety and righteousness and effecting what is compulsory according to religion. If we keep on this road of Islam, we will never be defeated. And if, God forbid, we do not win at some stage, even though we have carried out our duties, we will have no cause for worry or concern. We have done our duty, and the Lord has given us a promise. We have repeatedly seen that the Lord's promises have been carried out at the proper time. There have been repeated cases of blessed hidden help. We have no doubt that in the battle between us and the oppression in the region, the victory for Islam and Muslims has been destined by God. [crowd chants "God is great," "Death to the United States"] [passage omitted citing Koranic verses]

This has been achieved thanks to the sacred blood of the best servants of God in the deserts of Karbala' and after the imprisoning of the holy family of the prophet [allusion to the martyrdom of Imam Husayn in early Islamic era] [passage omitted] In the holy month of Murram, we must observe our rites and fill Hoseynyehs [places of worship devoted to Imam Husayn], prayer sites, places of mourning, and other places. [passage omitted] We must preserve the traditions we have always observed. [passage omitted] Our enemies have always been fearful of this month and its ceremonies. They must continue to fear this. [passage omitted]

The other issue to bear in mind is Islamic Banking Week, which is currently being held. For our nation to take heed of the important event in our history, I now say a few words. [passage omitted] Basically, banking is a modern idea, a capitalist entity which we should have thought of during our revolution. This task

is currently under review. I do not claim that we have reached the final results. Our experts and learned people are working hard to fully correspond the spirit of the system with Islam.

There are two distinct axes in banking order. Legally speaking, one is an economic axis with interest-free credit [qarz ol-hasaneh] and the other is a humanistic axis. [passage omitted] The Islamic Bank is presently making available part of its deposits without incurring losses of bankrupcy, as interest-free credit at very low cost — at the level of administrative costs — to needy persons. This will continue as long as resources allow. The other axis is the economic one which allows banks to collect money from a group of people to act in various fields. [passage omitted] Banks operate on this axis too, but on the other they earn some income.

One must not expect a total lack of income, as a question still exists in many minds that once Islamic banking is operating, people should always collect only their fees and earn no profits. If that was the case, the people would not deposit their money at the bank. Many have money and must live on what they own. [passage omitted] They are right in earning some income on their savings. [passage omitted] Therefore, banks are for the most part operating in this manner; the money is not theirs. [passage omitted] There are huge projects in the country that no private enterprise cannot back; billions in investment are needed. This sort of thing can be effected by banks. Also, the country's monetary policies must be administered by banks. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the economic section of banks yields profit but it is personal profit and is not earned by specific persons. Those people who deposit the money, the people as partners, must be participants in profits to the extent of their investment, as is the case in other places. [passage omitted] This sort of profit earned is religiously acceptable to the people who deposit money in banks — as if they give money to partners of firms — and also the remainder left in the bank. Once the bank has more income, it can strengthen the interest-free credit sector to help the needy people who want to borrow money without interest. At any rate, I admit that we are still just beginning. Many questions and ambiguities exist and some theologians pose questions. These must be resolved gradually. The foundations of these issues are Islamic and approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly and certified by the Council of Guardians. Furthermore, the plan is being put into action in the form of a law. Of course, if there are cases of contradictions in the law, then punishment is in order. Otherwise, until the law is set forth, it is a religously correct act. [passage omitted]

The third issue for debate is an important one and refers to the bitter event in Mecca and this Bloody Friday which blemished the historical face of Islam. It tarnished the history of Mecca and the Ka'bah. This obscene act committed by Al Sa'ud is much too much for us. Of course, we say this more to Al Sa'ud, because Al Sa'ud directly opposed us. However, if Al Sa'ud was really acting on his own, it is likely that he would not have committed this act. This was such a dirty, ugly, odious, and monstrous act that we do not think that any other sinister element save the great satan would be prepared to soil its hands in this. It was a very ugly thing.

In those first days after the event, I outlined the ugly points of the act, but it cannot at all be described in words or writing or images. It reaches such depths and the occasion is so overwhelming to the body of Islamic ceremonies that one can only understand it through the senses; that is, if any feelings or senses are present in a person. The Saudis, however, lost a great deal through this act. They do not understand what they have done. Perhaps they will in the fullness of time. Their process of understanding has started now. It is exactly like the story of Karbala'. [passage omitted]

Just as from the time of Ashura when Hoseyn was killed -- which is the most important day of mourning for Shi'ites -- there was a revolt against the Yazidis [followers of Yazid, enemies of Hoseyn]. So, too, protests began in Mecca itself, as well as in Pakistan, in Lebanon, in Palestine, in countries of the infidels, and in Islamic countries. People are protesting.

Saudi Arabia made a mistake when it announced: We did not shoot. That was a stupid thing to say. Everyone heard shots. It is true that people did not see the rest of the events because they may have been inside hotels or in nearby streets and did not see what happened, but everyone could hear the shots, could they not? The shotguns could be heard at distant points in Mecca. Many were there and saw what happened. If an event such as this had 50 witnesses, it would not have remained hidden today. Several hundred thousand eyes saw this event. [passage omitted]

The Saudis have severed their own roots. They should not imagine that we alone will take revenge. Today, thousands of hearts have been broken around the world. Millions of eyes have cried over this event. Hundreds and thousands of young people are angry, full of wrath. They were already angry with the Saudis, and now they are even angrier. They have found documentary evidence for taking revenge. They [Saudis] themselves sensed this; they suddenly instructed that 100 of those princes — their relatives who were having a good time indulging themselves in the south of France — return immediately to Saudi Arabia. They now realize that this will be difficult as people cannot tolerate it. It is not necessary for the Islamic Republic to take revenge; people themselves will take revenge.

The United States also lost out. It was not just Saudi Arabia that lost. Saudi Arabia's loss is also America's loss. It would have been in the interest of the United States and Saudi Arabia if they had continued with their hypocritical ways, not rocking the boat. After all, what did Saudi Arabia lose in these past 5 or 6 years when our pilgrims went there, protested, and returned? They continued to make a fuss and did not give out much information. Some people were informed of what was going on, but others were not told. Those who understood and were well-meaning said: If Saudi Arabia has shown tolerance, it is because they were making concessions for the crimes of the Saudis. However, this year, their big loss was to break this boycott of the news with their own hands. That is, today the news of that event is being discussed around the world as the most important news in the world, just like the news of the Great War. It is being discussed. Some say they did a good thing and others say they did a bad thing.

Those who try to judge honestly say that they did the wrong

thing. No one says that the servant of the shrines, the person who hosted these people, did the right thing by trampling some 200 or 300 old men and women underfoot, by killing them with bullets or throwing stones at their heads from the top of multistory buildings. Who would accept such scenes? There are perhaps a handful of heartless people like themselves who may accept it, such as the United States. The United States itself is responsible. If the United was not responsible, the defeat of Saudi Arabia would mean the defeat of the United States, as Saudi Arabia is its most important base in the region. The United States hurt itself and Saudi Arabia by this act. They have all suffered. Such a loss will not become immediately clear. [passage omitted]

The Palestinians were there. Fortunately, their behavior was very good. Our pilgrims thank the Palestinians for sheltering the innocent people in their hotels and hostels, for looking after them. However, not their leaders, their leaders sing the same tune as the Saudis. About the Palestinians, they actually had a number of martyrs. These are martyrs who should have been fighting Israel inside occupied Palestine; they had to fight the Saudis and were killed by Saudis there. They have returned to their cities. Lebanon and Palestine gave a large number of martyrs. People from Pakistan showed a great deal of sincerity in this respect. They returned home and revealed the facts. The major portion of Indian ulema and clerics are expressing their hatred. Others are doing the same. This has just begun. This task of ours is carried out gradually. We cannot do this as a great act.

The press of the world, radios of the world, policies of the world are not under our control. The United States is forcing them to speak on Saudi Arabia's behalf. However, the gentle movement of the popular, religious masses will do its work and, God willing, this will cause the fall of another of the U.S. bases in the region. [passage omitted]

Those who soiled their hands with that crime [the bombing of Islamic Republican Party headquarters] received no benefit from this and suffered. This is another event the Saudis should learn from. Where are the liberals and the hypocrites whose joint plot ended in this crime? Where have they gone? Their destiny is a lesson for our nation. The evil road is like this. You set out on it and it gets worse each day. It is like quicksand where you keep going until you are buried in it. We are saddened by what the hypocrites have done and and where they have gotten to now. They started with the slogan "Struggle against imperialism and oppression." Was it not so? You brothers and sisters know this; we all remember this. The youth remember it. Now their destiny is thus. Are they fighting imperialism and oppression now? Right now they are the servants of the most oppressive element in the world. You would not find anyone more oppressive in the world. You know the crimes Saddam has committed in Iraq and wherever else he can reach. The hypocrites have been turned into people who are there to receive their daily bread and commit crimes. [passage omitted]

Liberals are the same. However, as their numbers are not as large, they act differently. Either they air their goals in a different way or speak on their behalf abroad. As far as the monarchists are concerned, they are not worth talking about. Therefore, we see that those who soiled their hands with the blood of these great ones have such a destiny. Our nation, particularly our youth and our dear families, should learn a lesson from such conditions. [passage omitted]

As for the guests at the Friday prayers today, I have their names written down here and will read them out so that we may thank them: A group of students from the high school of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps are our guests today; a number of commanders of the Basij [volunteers] resistance bases of schools of Bakhtaran, Kohkiluyeh va Bovir Ahmad, and Qazvin Provinces have come; a number of Basij brethren of agriculture departments in the process of undertaking military training are participating in our ceremonies; and a number of brothers from banks who are here on the occasion of the Islamic Banking Week. A number of personnel from the Pakistan Armed Forces are attending our Friday prayers, having returned from the house of God [Mecca]. They are pilgrims on their way back to Pakistan, and we hope that they will have a good time in Iran and that they will convey our regards to the Pakistani people.

Before the Arabic sermon, I recommend that you always safeguard yourself and your society, be pious, which is the essence of humanity, and perform your religious duties by the grace of God. My sermon in Arabic is about the lessons that the Persian Gulf events are teaching the world and how they have exposed the faces of many. It has exposed the nature of Saddam, of Kuwait, of Saudi Arabia, of France, of the United Kingdom, and the United States. These events are unwittingly elucidating the true nature of the Islamic Republic. The sermon, in brief, is about these issues.

Kharrazi Denies Policy Change on U.S. Gulf Presence

LD221552 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi on Saturday categorically refuted a claim of certain sections of the foreign news media alleging the Islamic Republic has changed its stand on the presence of the U.S. naval fleet in the Persian Gulf. He dismissed the claim as deliberate 'news distortion'. The WIH said that quoting in bits, incomplete sentences from an interview without taking the whole concept of the message into consideration is nothing but 'misleading news reporting'.

At a press conference attended by foreign reporters Thursday, Kharrazi had reiterated Iran's opposition to foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf, saying that U.S. Naval presence in the Persian Gulf is principally aimed at creating tension and spreading the war in the Persian Gulf region. The WIH head went on to emphasise that withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf is the only way to restore security in the region.

Scoffing at the U.S. Navy's escort of Kuwaiti tankers as a 'dirty, stupid and costly' job, Kharrazi had sarcastically told reporters that if the Americans wanted to pay such a high price for escorting Kuwaiti tankers that was up to them, and Iran has nothing to say.

Kharrazi said that the Ame .can presence in the Persian Gulf smells of ill-intentions and is spreading tension into other parts of the region by misportraying the Persian Gulf as being insecure.

He further noted that the accidents which happened over the past few weeks, such as striking of mines by ships and blaming Iran for alleged attacks on a Liberian and a Yugoslav ships, were all deliberately engineered to heighten tension and justify U.S. presence in the region.

Denies Mining Gulf Waters

LD221826 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi today said that the Islamic Republic has never mined international waters and shores of the Persian Gulf despite its high capability of doing so.

Commenting on alleged reports in the international media that Iran had mined the Persian Gulf, Kharrazi said "What has so far been said about mining, relates only to the past when Iraq imposed the war, and that too in certain areas of the northern Persian Gulf and Khawr 'Abdallah waterway which are considered as a war zone."

"It was for the purpose of cutting Iraqi access to Iranian ports and installations", added the WIH head.

Reportage on War Support Seminar Meeting in Tehran

Majlis Member on Objectives

NC240531 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] The "Labbayk Ya Imam" [We respond to your call, O Imam] seminar, which will examine ways in which resources throughout the country can be mobilized in order to continue the imposed war until final victory, is scheduled to open in Tehran this morning. Our correspondent interviewed Mr Ruhani, member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Defense Committee:

[Begin recording][Correspondent] Mr Ruhani, the "Labbayk Ya Imam" seminar is scheduled to open in a few minutes. Please inform us about the objectives of this seminar in your capacity as the head of the central and (?support) headquarters.

[Ruhani] In the name of God, the Almighty. On the eve of the month of Muharram, the month of the victory of blood over the sword, the third "Labbayk Ya Imam" seminar is to open in a few minutes. At a time when the United States and its allies are threatening us in the Persian Gulf and when we are witnessing a big international plot against us, we must hold this important seminar in Tehran in order to make the necessary preparations to defend our system and our Islamic revolution in the Persian Gulf and in the war zones. In addition to the Persian Gulf issue and the plot by world arrogance and its allies, discussion at the seminar will also focus on ways to prepare the combatants of Islam for future operations.

I can sum up the seminar's objective in one phrase: to mobilize all the resources throughout our country to continue the war and the holy defense against the Saddamists' offensive and against all forces that intend to attack the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Members of the Supreme Defense Council; the War Support Supreme Council; the War Support's Central Headquarters; the Cabinet; as well as Friday imams, and the imam's representatives in the provinces; governors-general; commanders of the Corps and of the Armed Forces; and officials of the Construction Jihad's war affairs, will attend this seminar. In addition to speeches by government and military officials, five committees set up under the seminar also will hold meetings. [end recording]

President Addresses Meeting

LD240908 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — A one-day seminar of war all-Iran War Support Headquarters [as received] was opened here Monday with a speech by President and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i.

President Khamene'i, Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Musavi, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Commander Mohsen Rezai'e and Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Brigadier General Sohrabi are also to brief the seminar on war, and future programs of the Islamic Government.

The seminar will conclude Monday evening after hearing speeches of speaker Rafsanjani and Premier Musavi.

President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Monday that holding the War Support Headquarters Seminar under this sensitive circumstances was due to the fact that the big powers which have directly or indirectly helped Iraq regime during the seven-year old imposed war, are now involving themselves more than they did before out of a fear of the implications to them of the overthrow of the Baghdad regime.

Speaking at the opening session of the one-day seminar, President Khamene'i said "In the past we were fighting on the borders but today expansionist powers have chosen the Persian Gulf which is a more dangerous zone for the creation of turmoil and tension."

International arrogance, he added, was trying to turn the Persian Gulf and to some extent the Gulf of Oman into battlefiled, stressing that the main reason for this measure was nothing but weakness of the Iraqi regime.

Recent operations of Iranian forces in Maymak (western Iran) once again proved inability of Iraqi regime to embark on a defensive operation, the president said, adding that the world expansionists had realised that the Baghdad regime was doomed to fail but could not admit that.

Referring to critical situation in the Persian Gulf, head of the Supreme Defence Council said that current moves in the Persian Gulf are parts of a propaganda ploy through which the U.S. is trying to preserve its superpower stature.

"Today there is something in the Persian Gulf before which even the most advanced world technology cannot stand — sincere faith and martyrdom-seeking spirit which spurns death," the

president said. Said he: "Our combatants are able to deal a fatal blow on the enemy wherever they wish and the enemy knows it well."

President Khamene'i said, "We have tried, and will try not to pave the way for the expansionists to achieve what they are looking for. The Islamic Republic of Iran is exerting its utmost efforts to prevent any clash in this region."

Said the President: "We will remain patient towards Persian Gulf issue as far as we can, but, the day when they intervene and try to create confrontation, we will enter the scene and on that day no power will stand the heavy blows of our martyrdom-loving forces."

President Khamene'i stressed that it was the duty of all armed forces to stand unitedly against enemies until the legitimate rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran are attained.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Commander Mohsen Rezai'e said that the concentration of U.S. military hardware in the region, is an indication of its fear of the Islamic Revolution. Rezai'e said that the West can no longer hide itself behind the ailing Iraqi regime and is forced to directly enter the Persian Gulf and pressure Iran.

The IRGC commander stressed, "We are enjoying a great divine power and have improved our readiness for the war of the Persian Gulf which is a complicated war, to deal fatal blows on them in case the U.S. embarks on acts of mischief in the region."

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 2,935

LD211631 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 21, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed a village near Marivan, northwestern Iran, at 07:45 GMT Wednesday, wounding one civilian and inflicting damage on the village, said a military communique here Thursday.

The 2935th Joint Staff Communique reported that Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected eight cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

A group of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of enemy positions and one command jeep were destroyed in Maymak and Kushk theaters in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants wednesday, the communique said.

The communique said that Iranian patrols successfully reconnoitered key Iraqi positions throughout the fronts yesterday, dealing effective blows on enemy troops and returning safely to bases.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts Wednesday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying 10 gun emplacements, nine vehicles and one heavy vehicle of theirs, according to the communique.

Iraqi vehicle columns carrying supply for Iraqi troops in Sardasht, Panjwin and on Tib-Zobeydat Axis sustained heavy damage Wednesday when shelled by Iranian Muslim combatants, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Warplanes Bomb Arak

LD211644 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed a factory site in Arak, Central Province, in mid-day Friday, martyring two workers and wounding a number of others. Parts of the factory building were also damaged.

Iraq Bombs Khuzestan Sites

LD220854 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed a township and three industrial units of Khuzestan Province, Friday. Two civilians were martyred and 41 others injured in the Iraqi air raid on Allah Akbar township near Hasht Tappeh, northwest of Ahvaz. The three industrial units also sustained damage.

At least 29 workers were martyred and over 50 others injured when Iraqi warplanes attacked the same three industrial units last Monday.

Iraqi Helicopter Downed in Sumar

LD221028 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 22, IRNA — An Iraqi helicopter was downed by the Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Sumar region, Western fronts, Friday. Meanwhile 17 individual bunkers, two watch posts and one enemy bulldozer were destroyed in western fronts Friday. Furthermore, in Sumar and Naft-e Shah operational regions more than 10 Iraqis were killed or wounded.

Iraqi Industrial Plants Bombed

LD221022 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Iranian bombers heavily pounded industrial and military installations as well as factory complexes in Dahuk, Darbandikhan, and Al-'Amarah in northern, eastern and southeastern Iraq respectively, Saturday morning.

The Joint Staff Headquarters of the Armed Forces in a communique said that the bombardments were carried out at 04:10, 05:40, and 06:55 GMT.

"Irreparable damage and loss were inflicted on the Ba'thist enemy", the communique said, adding that all Iranian bombers returned to their bases safely.

Parliament Extends State of Emergency 1 Month

BK211144 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] The motion to extend the state of emergency by another month was approved by Parliament yesterday: 111 voted for the motion while 10 members of the SLFP and the MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna] voted against it.

Winding up the debate on the motion, Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that everyone must unite and be alert to safeguard the country. An opportunity will be provided to participate in a debate on the Indo-Sri Lanka peace agreement when legislation in this regard is introduced in Parliament. Parliamentarians, as well as the general public, will have the opportunity to inspect such legislation. Nothing could be enacted outside the framework of the Constitution.

Referring to why he did not attend the ceremonies to welcome Mr Rajiv Gandhi and the signing of the peace accord, the prime minister said that he did so because India has insulted the sovereignty of our country. He was shocked to hear of the assault on Mr Gandhi. It was an insult to the entire nation. Mr Premadasa said that he joined the UNP because it was party dedicated to safeguarding the unitary status and the independence of Sri Lanka.

Mr Premadasa said that he was pleased that the terrorists groups were surrendering their arms, but it was distressing to note that these groups were able to bring such large stocks of arms into the country.

Referring to Tuesday's incident in the Parliament building, he said that members should be able to express their views and ideas without fear or anxiety.

Delhi Says Militants Hand Over 70 Percent of Arms

BK240339 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, Tamil groups have so far handed over nearly 70 percent of their arsenal. The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, told Sri Lankan television that this figure is fairly accurate and includes all types of arms and ammunition. Most of the handed-over arms are said to be heavy wapons used by the militants.

In the meantime, an Indian delegation which has been in Colombo has completed the first round of deliberaions with the Sri Lankan side on residual matters. They are understood to have finalized the pattern of the interim administration to be set up in the north and east. The second round of talks pertaining to devolution of powers to the proposed integrated northeast provincial council is to be held soon. The Tamil Nadu minister, Mr S. Ramachandran, said in Tiruchirappalli that the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement on the ethnic crisis is progressing satisfactorily. He said a steady approach in the coming phases of implementation will make the agreement successful.

The Sri Lankan Government has decided to issue identity cards to about 20,000 Buddhist monks to prevent members of the banned Janata Vimukthi Peramuna from wearing yellow robes to impersonate as monks. The cultural affairs minister, Mr Hurulle, who was injured in the recent grenade attack, said these monks will be asked to carry identity cards with them at all times. He has appealed to the Buddhist clergy to keep the monks out of politics.

Scotland Yard Assists Investigation of Attack

BK211315 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1253 GMT 21 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 21 (*Lanka Puwath*) -- Scotland Yard is assisting the Sri Lankan police in its investigations into last Tuesday's (August 18) assassination attempt on Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene, when he was presiding at a government parliamentary group meeting in Parliament at Sri Jayawardenapura, Kotte, police told *Lanka Puwath* today. They said that two senior British detectives who would be serving in the capacity of advisers, in the investigation, would be arriving from London in a few hours time.

Police said the two crack investigators were experts in handling crimes of the nature of the gun and grenade attack on President Jayewardene, his ministers and other members of the government parliamentary group. [passage omitted]

Former Deputy Inspector General of Police (CID) [Criminal Investigation Department], Tyrell Gunatilleke who retired recently, has also been appointed an adviser to the investigators led by Frank Silva, deputy inspector general of police in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Police said that all those present in the parliament building at the time of the assassination attempt, about 0900 hours (local time) were being interviewed by detectives. This included the police security officers who were on duty at the time. Police said that the crime was re-enacted by detectives today in Parliament in the course of their investigations.